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The New York Times

8-page supplement

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President Ezer Weizman (left) meets with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Alexandria yesterday. (AP)

Mubarak meets Weizman, softens tone on Azzam

By MICHAL YUDELMAN

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak yesterday softened his position on Azzam Azzam, the Israeli sentenced to 15 years in an Egyptian jail for espionage last month.

Meeting with President Ezer Weizman at the presidential palace in Alexandria yesterday, he said he would look for a legal way to release Azzam.

The two also discussed peace efforts between Israel and the Palestinians, and spoke of a Camp David-format summit, with the participation of Israeli, Palestinian, and Egyptian leaders, to jump-start the peace process. At

the end of the meeting, Weizman said he was taking back some ideas to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, including a proposal by Mubarak regarding the further withdrawals mandated in the Oslo Accords.

Referring to Azzam, Mubarak said: "We're not closing or opening any doors, but we are now holding discussions with Weizman to see if there are legal ways to contain this problem. We're trying to find a legal solution."

The talks about Azzam will continue between Mubarak's senior adviser Osama el-Baz and Weizman's bureau chief Arye Shomer.

Mubarak said he could not sim-

ply release Azzam, since neither presidents Gamal Abdel Nasser nor Anwar Sadat had given such a pardon to anyone.

He noted that any decision regarding a pardon must be made on the basis of general principles, and requires his examination of all similar cases, as others will have to be pardoned as well.

Mubarak criticized the Israeli media for bringing the subject up again and again, noting that had the case not drawn such widespread publicity it could have been solved behind the scenes.

"The spy Azzam could have been freed before reaching trial, if [the Israeli media] hadn't announced his arrest four days

before the economic conference," Mubarak said.

Weizman said Israel had undergone a very difficult year, with several terrorist attacks, noting "this does not encourage the Israeli citizen to stick to the peace process. I hope [Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser] Arafat understands this and is acting to prevent further attacks."

Mubarak agreed with Weizman on the terrorism issue and said there is no longer room for wars in the region. However, he pointed out that "if we wait until complete security is reached for everyone, and only then turn to making peace, why, that would be absurd."

Talks with PA to resume

By MICHAL YUDELMAN and news agencies

Israel and the Palestinian Authority have decided to resume direct talks in the framework of the Oslo Accords, the Prime Minister's Office indicated yesterday.

An official announcement of the resumption of the working group sessions is expected today at the meeting in New York of Foreign Minister David Levy, PA Chairman Yasser Arafat's deputy Mahmoud Abbas and US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said at yesterday's cabinet meeting that the resumption of talks, which have been stalled since February, was made possible by the discussions held in Washington between an Israeli delegation headed by Cabinet Secretary Dan Naveh and the PA, and by the security steps taken by the Palestinian authorities.

The main thing is to make clear to the other side that we want to go forward with the process, but that they must fight terror," Netanyahu told Channel 1. "There is a change in the past few days. I think that finally something has sunk in."

Netanyahu also said he had given instructions to transfer to the PA half of the funds which Israel has withheld since the Mahaneh Yehuda

sitack on July 30. The Finance Ministry said that NIS 59 million would be handed over. That represents about half the original sum withheld. A third, NIS 40m., was transferred last month.

Netanyahu noted that he made the decision to release the funds after receiving reports of the PA's first measures against terrorism, stressing that these steps must be continuous, systematic and consistent.

Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky suggested the funds not be transferred to Arafat's personal account, due to PA financial corruption. But his motion was rejected because the deal with the PA stipulates the funds be deposited directly into Arafat's account.

The IDF also announced another easing of the closure. An additional 8,000 Palestinians will be allowed to enter Israel beginning this morning, bringing the total number of workers allowed in to 29,000.

The Palestinian welcomed the government's decisions to release funds and resume negotiations.

"The Israeli government agreed to resume the negotiating committees and we see this as a positive step in the right direction," Arafat's spokesman Marwan Kanafani said.

The issues before the committees include the opening of Gaza air and seaports, a "safe passage" between

the West Bank and Gaza and the release of Palestinian prisoners held by Israel.

Time magazine reports in its issue coming out today that Arafat said after fainting at an Arab foreign ministers' meeting in Cairo that he fears he will not live until his 70th birthday, in two years. The magazine cited Arab sources.

At the opening of yesterday's cabinet session, General Security Service head Ami Ayalon briefed the ministers on security issues and reported on the investigation which led to the identification of four out of the five suicide bombers responsible for recent attacks in Jerusalem. Ayalon said there are indications that the PA has begun taking steps against the terror infrastructure.

Commenting on the reports of IDF "war games" simulating an IDF reconquest of PA-controlled towns, Netanyahu branded the reports as "irresponsible" and stressed they had nothing to do with the government's policy or its plans of action.

The cabinet also approved President Ezer Weizman's trip to Washington at the end of the week.

Albright, who is in New York for the UN General Assembly, will also hold separate talks today with Levy and Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Shara on how to revive Israeli-Syrian peace talks.

Labor court halts strike; seeks Histadrut, Treasury compromise

By DAVID HARRIS

The National Labor Court was scheduled to meet at 9 a.m. this morning in a bid to bring an end to the dispute between the Histadrut and the Finance Ministry.

In an unprecedented step, Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman testified before the court during a

agreed to respond to certain undisclosed offers made by Neeman, according to Treasury spokeswoman Estie Applebaum.

Today a timetable will be set for further talks.

Some 500,000 people participated in yesterday's strike, which wreaked havoc throughout the country. There was widespread support for the action from Histadrut members, although some workplaces were able to function on a scaled-down basis.

The Histadrut decided to observe the Labor Court's ruling and called on members to return to work at 2 p.m. It also said it would not renew strike action this week. The decision was taken so as not to unduly burden the population ahead of Rosh Hashana, said Peretz. However, he warned that if there is a further strike, it will be indefinite and far more severe than yesterday.

Among the sectors affected by the strike were education, health, transport, emergency services, central and local government, and various industries.

Neeman told cabinet colleagues yesterday that despite his attempts to talk to Peretz, no progress was being made.

"Regarding the cabinet's decision on structural reforms, Peretz once again said that until the government decision is revoked, there's absolutely nothing to talk about," Neeman reported. "We, the citizens of the state, are paying NIS 100 million a day for Amir Peretz's political run."

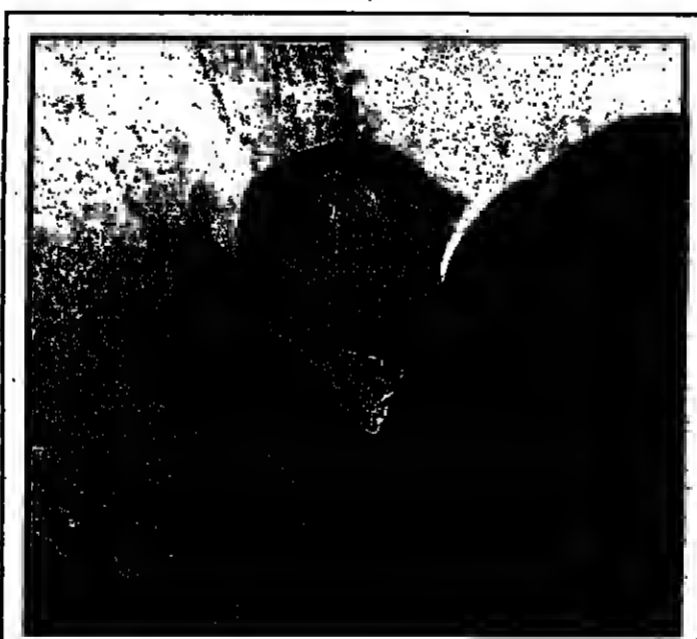
Unemployment hits 8%, Page 9

nine-hour session that stretched into the early hours of yesterday.

That session failed to produce a permanent solution to the parties' differences, but the court did instruct the Histadrut to end yesterday's strike at 2 p.m., rather than allowing it to continue indefinitely as the Histadrut had intended.

Neeman and Histadrut Chairman Amir Peretz met again last night in Jerusalem in an attempt to avert further industrial action and reach a compromise.

The atmosphere at the meeting was reportedly good, and Peretz



Olmert acquitted
Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert offers a prayer at the Western Wall after his acquittal on fraud charges yesterday. Story, Page 14. (Flash 90)

Barak, in Netivot, repeats apology to Sephardim

Labor Party chairman Ehud Barak seemed the uncertain groom in Netivot's gaudily decorated Rose

bride: the country's Sephardim.

For the second time in four days, Barak - speaking to a special session of the Labor Party convention - apologized in the name of the party for indignities caused to the Sephardim during the early years of the state.

This time he answered directly those critics who questioned his sincerity.

In Context, Page 3

Hall yesterday, as he again extended his hand in an offer of union to a long sought-after but reluctant

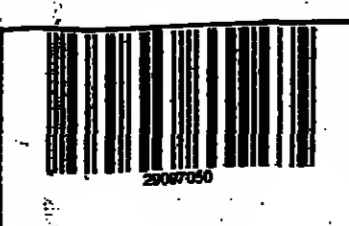
See BARAK, Page 10

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THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL BANK



See STRIKE, Page 2

ehard smoker hospital staffer

Winning cards

Teen suspect in US killing arrested here

NEWS

in brief

Cabinet okays extension of Shahak's command

The cabinet yesterday approved a request by Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai to extend the term of Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak by seven months. Shahak, who was to have stepped down on January 1, will serve until July 9, a cabinet statement said.

Grapes of Wrath panel meeting today

The Grapes of Wrath monitoring group is to convene at UNIFIL's headquarters in Nakoura today to hear a complaint by Israel over the wounding of a resident of the security zone earlier this week. Israel charged that the woman was hurt as a result of a Sagger anti-tank missile fired by Hizbullah.

Israel denies involvement in attack on Hamas leader

The Israeli embassy in Amman yesterday denied that Israel was involved in a Thursday attack on Hamas political chief Khaled Meshaal, blamed by Hamas on Mossad agents.

"We deny it. Nothing to do with it," embassy spokesman Roey Gilad said.

Jordan initially dismissed the incident as an argument between Meshaal's driver and Canadian tourists and said Meshaal was not involved. It later acknowledged he was attacked.

Man killed in traffic accident

A man was killed and two others injured in a collision between two cars on the Beersheba-Arad road yesterday. Traffic Police investigators determined that the man killed was speeding, lost control of his car, and swerved into oncoming traffic, hitting an approaching car head-on. His passenger was injured, as was the driver of the second car.

Soldier injured in roadblock incident

A soldier was injured when a car ran an IDF roadblock yesterday afternoon near Kalandia, north of Jerusalem. The IDF Spokesman said the soldier was lightly injured and treated at the site before being transferred to hospital. Soldiers at the roadblock opened fire on the fleeing vehicle. The spokesman said the abandoned car was later discovered near Alfei Menashe, with bullet holes and bloodstains in it. It was determined that it had been stolen.

Arsonists set fire to Rabin assassin's home

Arsonists tried to set fire to the home of prime minister Rabin's assassin in Herzliya before dawn Sunday. It was the third attempt to burn down the house, the local fire brigade said. The parents and sister of convicted killer Yigal Amir and his accomplice brother Hagai were awakened by the fire that burned a table and a TV set before they extinguished it and called the fire brigade. The fire was set by an inflammable liquid mixed with benzene poured through shutters.

Boy recovering from viper bite

An eight-year-old Netanya from was recovering in Laniado Hospital yesterday after being bitten by a poisonous viper. The boy was bitten on Friday while playing in his schoolyard. A teacher rushed him to the hospital in his car. After describing the snake, the boy lost consciousness and his blood pressure dropped. He was given infusions and anti-snake serum. A professional snake catcher was sent to get the animal, and it was a viper. The boy is now out of danger, according to Laniado doctors.

Israeli, Tunisian receive prize founded by Billy Joel

Abie Nathan and Tunisian activist Khemais Chamhari were honored yesterday for their human rights efforts with a prize founded by singer Billy Joel. The winners of the DM 25,000 Human Rights Prize of the City of Nuremberg were chosen by a jury that includes former German president Richard von Weizsaecker, Czech President Vaclav Havel, and UNESCO general director Federico Mayor.

Joel endowed the prize with the proceeds from two benefit concerts he gave in 1995 in the city, where his parents, both German Jews, were born. At the award ceremony, both winners were praised for their efforts to make peace between Arabs and Israelis.

Turf war over TV franchises

A turf war is heating up between the Second Television and Radio Authority (STRA) and the Communications Ministry, headed by Limor Livnat, on the extension of Channel 2 franchises. In emergency session last Friday, the STRA council decided to advance to December 31, 1997 its decision whether or not to extend the current franchises, held by Reshet, Keshet and Tel-Ad, for another four years from 1999, when the franchises are set to expire.

With great sadness we announce the passing of

HIRSCH JACOBSON

devoted husband, father and brother

The mourners: his wife Marion
his daughters Shira, Atara, Roni, Adina
his brother Jessiah
his sister Sylvia Antelman

A service will be held today, Monday September 29 at 2 p.m.
Har Hamenuhot Cemetery, Jerusalem (Gush 13)
Shiva at 9 Skolnik, Rehovot

בן דוד ודין אמת

With deep sorrow we announce the passing of

RICHARD L. SWIG

of San Francisco, California,
beloved husband of Roselyn (Cissie) Swig

A respected leader of the Bay Area Jewish community and true supporter of the State of Israel.

Dick will be sorely missed by all his life-long friends in Israel.

Shmuel Ben Tovim
Chairman
San Francisco Amuta

Natan Golan
Director-Israel Office
San Francisco
Jewish Community Federation

PA security sources admit link between Hamas political and military wings

By STEVE RODAN

Palestinian Authority security officials, seeking the arrest of Islamic militants, have acknowledged that there is a link between the political and military wings of Hamas as well as between its social service organizations and terrorist squads.

The officials said the link became apparent during PA investigations of senior Hamas activists detained over the last week in sweeps throughout the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In the past, the PA accepted the position of Hamas that the military wing is completely independent of the movement's political representatives.

"In investigations by Palestinian security it became clear that a number of Hamas political leaders have a connection to activities of the military infrastructure [of the movement]," a Palestinian security source told the PA-aligned *Al Hayat al-Jadida*.

"In addition, a number of social institutions [of Hamas] secretly grant aid to attempts to establish a military infrastructure in the movement," he said.

A senior Israeli security source said the PA does not plan to carry out the mass arrests demanded by Israel. But it intends to keep those arrested in jail for longer than previous periods.

The source said, "The message Amrat is giving is two-fold. One is to Israel and particularly the US that he is fighting terror, the other is to Hamas, which Arafat feels has gotten too cocky lately for its own good."

A Palestinian source close to PA security said that for the first time since 1994 the PA is tracking down the secret Hamas military squads. The source said PA security services are much better prepared for the mission than several years ago when they knew little of the Hamas organizational structure.

But the source said he doesn't believe Arafat will demand the arrest of Hamas military leaders, such as Mohammed Deif. "We are talking about the mid-level commanders," the source said.

"Arresting the top commanders would be too much." For their part, Israeli officials remain skeptical of the PA's intentions of cracking down on Hamas.

Security sources said the PA arrests are meant to satisfy US rather than Israeli demands on battling terrorism.

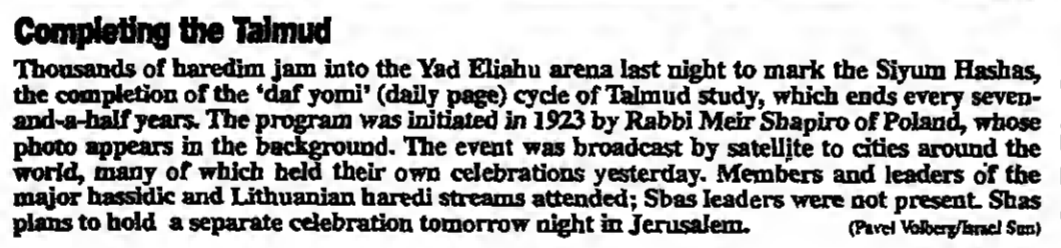
"We are not really in the picture," a security source said. "It seems as if it is more the PA and the US working together." The PA offensive against Hamas has not dampened the ardor of the military wing. A leaflet released by Izzeddin al-Kassam, the armed wing of Hamas, warned of more attacks against Israel in reaction to Thursday's alleged assassination attempt of Hamas political leader Khaled Meshaal in Amman.

"We are calling on all of our military wings to unite forces and respond strongly and effectively in wake of this serious crime," the leaflet said.

At a news conference in Gaza, Hamas leaders protested PA arrests of activists and the closure of their institutions. They said they were taken aback by the ferocity of the PA crackdown and called on human rights groups and the Palestinian Legislative Council to intervene.

"This campaign is unjustified from our point of view," Abdullah Shami, a Hamas leader who in 1992 was deported by Israel to south Lebanon, told *The Jerusalem Post*. "The institutions that were closed haven't any connection to the military activities. The PA must stop these illegal measures."

Mohammed Najib contributed to this report.



Completing the Talmud

Thousands of haredim jam into the Yad Eliahu arena last night to mark the Siyum Hashas, the completion of the 'daf yomi' (daily page) cycle of Talmud study, which ends every seven-and-a-half years. The program was initiated in 1923 by Rabbi Meir Shapiro of Poland, whose photo appears in the background. The event was broadcast by satellite to cities around the world, many of which held their own celebrations yesterday. Members and leaders of the major hassidic and Lithuanian haredi streams attended; Shas leaders were not present. Shas plans to hold a separate celebration tomorrow night in Jerusalem.

(Pavel Volberg/Jamal Sam)

Gov't memo: PA becoming Islamic guardian in Jerusalem

By ELLI WOHLGELER

The Palestinian Authority is rapidly taking over Islamic institutions in the Old City of Jerusalem, and the speeches and activities of the mufti have become more extreme, according to an internal memo of the Prime Minister's Office obtained by *The Jerusalem Post*.

The two main political-religious leaders, the Minister of Wakf and Religious Affairs Hassan Tahboub and the PA-appointed Jerusalem Mufti Ikrama Sabri are asserting their influence over all aspects of life in the Old City.

The mufti, according to the memo, operates in various spheres. He preaches jacobite sermons at the Al-Aksa Mosque on Fridays against Israel and those who collaborate with it. He issues religious opinions which are political, including his rulings that call for the killing of land dealers who sell property to Israelis and forbid Arab residents of Jerusalem to take Israeli citizenship.

He participates as the central dignitary in various events that are political and religious. He participates in protest activities against Israel and is strengthening his ties with Israeli Arabs, acting as their mufti.

There has been a noticeable radicalization of the mufti's activities in the last few months, the report said.

In a speech at Al-Aksa on July 11, Sabri branded Israeli settlers "sons of monkeys and pigs," and called for America's destruction. Sabri charged that the US "is ruled by Zionist Jews," and that

President Bill Clinton "is fulfilling his father's will to identify with Israel."

Sabri, once very pro-Jordan, was appointed by the PA to be the supreme Moslem religious authority in Jerusalem, superseding his veteran Jordanian-backed counterpart, Abdel-Khader Abdin, who occupies a smaller office than Sabri near the Temple Mount.

There has been continuous friction between the Jordanian Wakf (Moslem religious trust), which has been the custodian of the Temple Mount for decades, and the Palestinian Wakf, which Arafat appointed after his arrival in Gaza in 1994.

Though Al-Aksa is under Israeli jurisdiction, it is also subject to the direct and exclusive administration of the Wakf.

Tahboub, the memo noted, "does not try and cover himself anymore as chairman of Supreme Islamic Council, but operates openly as Wakf and religious affairs minister for the PA."

In his position as chairman of the Supreme Religious Council, he led the PA takeover of the Wakf, as well as other religious institutions in Jerusalem.

Report: Soldiers not trained to cope with brush fires

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

The inquiry into the death of five Golan Brigade soldiers in a brush fire in south Lebanon has determined that the soldiers should have been ordered to evacuate sooner, but that the IDF had no prior training or understanding on how to behave during fires.

"The commander of the force didn't correctly estimate the pace of the fire or how it was developing," said inquiry head Maj.-Gen. Gaby Ashkenazy, assistant to the deputy chief of general staff.

Because of the lack of experience with fires, Ashkenazy's inquiry said, the soldiers were not able to determine when to start fleeing the rapidly approaching blaze. He added that neither the soldiers on the ground, nor the commanders back at headquarters

were aware of the dangers.

Speaking to reporters in Tel Aviv, Ashkenazy said the situation was unique and no one had any training on how to behave under such circumstances.

One of the committee's recommendations was to give soldiers and commanders special training on how to behave during fires.

The incident occurred last August 26 when a 15-man force set up an ambush in a deep ravine. It soon encountered a six-member squad of Amal guerrillas. After a four-hour battle, four of the Amal men were killed, and two were thought to have fled. The commander of the Golan team called in artillery and helicopter gunship support after more guerrillas were spotted in the area, and their fire started a brush fire.

The soldiers began their withdrawal too late and were caught in the fire. Four soldiers burned to death and a fifth died later of his wounds.

Channel 1 had initially claimed that the force had several times asked for permission to leave the area, but received no answer. It even reported a claim that the soldiers were ordered to stay put. But Ashkenazy said a total review of the recordings from that day showed there was no such radio request.

"We listened to the radio recordings between the force and the command center, and we did not find any evidence that the soldiers asked specifically to withdraw or that the battalion commander, who was in the command center, refused the request," Ashkenazy said.

"There were some discussions

regarding the fire and 'options,' I quote options, for withdrawal, but nothing more than that," he said.

Ashkenazy also said that the company commander acknowledged that he did not need permission to order a withdrawal and could do so once he felt his force was in danger - and this is what he did. The first report of the fire came in at 12:38. By 13:00 they spoke of withdrawal options should the fire threaten. But it wasn't until 14:08 that the force commander radioed in that the fire was approaching them quickly.

"The committee determined that even had the battalion commander ordered a withdrawal at 14:08, it wouldn't have been enough to prevent the force from getting into the distress it ran into," Ashkenazy said.

OC Northern Command Maj.-Gen. Amiram Levine is to summon the Golan battalion commander, Lt.-Col. N., to "review the report with him and point out deficiencies in the preparation of the force for the mission, wrong decisions, and the level of preparedness of the forward evacuation unit."

Some of the deficiencies were the result of the heavy burden placed on the soldiers and lack of professionalism, the committee said.

One of the officers in the raiding party, Lt. D., is also to be reprimanded for not having better command over his soldiers during the withdrawal, Ashkenazy said.

The committee heard testimony from 70 experts, including fire fighters and doctors. A copy of the report was also given to the families of the five soldiers who died.

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PALESTINIAN PRESS REVIEW

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PALESTINIAN PRESS REVIEW BY MICHAELA

Peace activists boycott settlements' goods

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Under the slogan "A shekel spent on settlements is a shekel against peace," the Gush Shalom peace movement yesterday launched a campaign urging the public to refrain from buying products made in settlements.

The group released a list of products ranging from foods, wines, metal doors, and furniture and next to each the name of the settlement it was made in. Keller said the boycott included products made in settlements in Judea, Samaria, Gaza, and the Golan Heights.

"Settlements are a provocation that are leading us towards war," said Gush Shalom leader Uri Avneri, adding: "We are offering the people of Israel a means of defense."

The campaign, said Keller, will include updating a list that will be handed out to shoppers outside supermarkets, asking them to refrain from buying the goods. In addition, an Internet site set up last week has already drawn scores of "surfers."

Keller said the movement's youth started investigating products made in the settlements several months ago. The campaign was launched now because of pre-Rosh Hashana shopping.

"We hope people who see our list will think twice before buying a product from one of the settlements," he said.

The movement has also requested from the European Community to clarify whether goods labeled "made in Israel" are really produced in areas outside Israel's internationally recognized borders.

During a recent trip to Europe, Keller said he had met with many people who declared all Israeli goods should be boycotted.

"I think this would be a mistake and I told them so. I believe that if people decide not to buy goods made in the settlements it will be enough."

"A large portion of the thousands of flowers sent to Britain to mark Princess Diana's death were grown in the Gush Katif settlements in the Gaza Strip. Europeans have no idea where these products are grown," Avneri said.

"The movement's name, peace bloc, is a very appropriate name on the eve of the High Holy Days, when a group of Jews campaigns to boycott other Jews," said Yehudit Tayar, spokeswoman of the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza last night.

IN CONTEXT / HERB KEINON

When it pays to say you're sorry

"I'm sorry," Labor Party leader Ehud Barak told the country's Sephardim last week, very much in the pre-High Holy Day penitential spirit.

"In my name, and in the name of the leadership of the Labor Party throughout the generations, I ask forgiveness," the would-be prime minister said in an act of contrition that caught the nation by surprise.

"The Labor movement was responsible for the establishment of the state, and this involved the uprooting of entire communities from North Africa and Arab countries, who were then dispersed in tent camps, and later in development towns and moshavim," Barak said.

"I find it very important to loudly say today that their pioneering contribution was enormous. In the course of the uprooting, there were many indignities done to families, and deep scars remain in the memories people associate with the Labor Party. For the pain and human suffering caused, I apologize."

The words generated a wide range of response - from appreciation (mostly among Sephardi Labor supporters), to cynicism and amusement (mostly among Ashkenazi Likud supporters), to demands for actions to back up the words (mostly from Sephardi Shas activists).

It is, indeed, a wonderful thing to hear apologies for real indignities - even those committed nearly 50 years ago in the midst of a gargantuan struggle to create a state against enormous odds. But the wonder would have been greater had the apology not been uttered as part of a well-planned campaign to win over Sephardim and the religious - sectors of the voting public who traditionally spurn Labor.

The apology would have seemed much more sincere had a Labor leader uttered it, for instance, while already in the prime minister's office, and not while engaged in a messy battle to capture it.

The apology came in the same week Barak met with the editors of the haredi weekly *Yated Ne'eman*, in an apparent attempt to create a less anti-religious image for Labor.

And the apology came just a few days before Labor was to hold its party convention in Netivot, an economically depressed development



Labor Party chairman Ehud Barak speaks with his predecessor Shimon Peres at yesterday's convention in Netivot. (Dan Osovnyev/Israel Net)

town in the Negev whose residents complain bitterly of just the types of indignities. Barak apologized for Netivot voted overwhelmingly for Binyamin Netanyahu in the previous election - exactly the reason it was chosen for the Labor convention. Barak, through a series of high-profile symbolic acts, is trying to cut in on the Likud turf. Holding the convention in Netivot is one way; the apology is another.

These moves are necessary if Labor is to win the next election. Although Netanyahu beat Shimon Peres by less than one percent, he out-pulled him by more than 11% among the Jewish voters. Barak is going to have to do much better among the Jews if he hopes to beat Netanyahu. One way to do this is to

make inroads, even small ones, into the Sephardi and haredi camps.

The apology is a win-win move for Barak. Those Sephardim who won't accept it would not vote for Barak in any case. However, the apology just might strike the right nerve for those Sephardim unhappy with Netanyahu's performance, but who - because of deep-seated anti-Labor sentiments - are reluctant to cast a Labor ballot.

Sephardi anger and resentment are real. Nothing is a better indicator of this than the growing strength of Shas, which has gone from four seats in the 1984 elections to 10 in the 1996 voting. This growth is even more impressive considering that it took place during a time when the party was hit by numerous

allegations of malfeasance. One MK, Yair Levy, has already served time for fraud, and another, party head Aryeh Deri, is enmeshed in a seemingly endless fraud trial.

Yet the power of Shas grows precisely because it plays on Sephardi pride and resentment. That resentment, whether justified or not, is there, it exists. Barak is trying to defuse it by saying, in a very Bill Clintonesque manner: "I understand your anger; I recognize your pain."

Barak's "I'm sorry" is a no-risk proposition on a personal level as well, since he is in no way incriminating himself. Co-opted into Labor two years ago by then prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, he cannot be held responsible for any of the wrongdoings he apologized for. Although

asking forgiveness is never easy, it is less difficult when apologizing for wrongs committed by someone else. Which is exactly what Barak did.

Votes are obviously not cast on the basis of one public pronouncement, or even one policy decision, but rather on the basis of accumulated impressions. Words create these impressions, and erase others. Barak is hoping that his carefully-chosen phrases will erase the long-standing notion among many Sephardim that the Labor Party is the bastion of an "arrogant," Ashkenazi power elite - an elite, ironically, epitomized by Barak himself.

Barak, through his apology, is saying to the Sephardim: I am different. Now he has two years to convince them of his sincerity.

Since its founding 52 years ago the Arab League has maintained a delicate semblance of unity within a sea of conflicting interests. The Palestinian issue has always been the lowest common denominator in the formulation of a joint declaration. The Arab foreign ministers' conference in Cairo a week ago was no exception.

The main issue was the economic conference scheduled for November in Doha, and the Palestinian demand to boycott it, as long as there is no progress in the peace process.

As a result of American pressure, the ministers avoided any official declaration on the Doha conference, and agreed to leave participation in it to the "sovereign decision of each Arab state."

Supporting Yasser Arafat in his speech at the Cairo meeting the financially independent *al-Quds* said in an editorial the next day that the Arabs should not let Israel reap diplomatic and economic fruit without paying for it by adhering to its commitments according to the peace agreements. "Normalization in advance will give Israel all the benefits of peace before it reciprocates with Palestinian rights and returns Arab lands to their legitimate owners."

The newspaper called on the Arab states to commit themselves to national solidarity and ignore external pressures.

The Arab foreign ministers' refusal to boycott the Doha conference in reaction to Israel's measures against the Palestinians was expected, Fayez Rashid wrote in *al-Quds*. Listing the familiar Israel "No" to the Palestinian demands for statehood, Rashid suggested that Israel should not be given the opportunity to play a role in the politics of the region, as it had done during the previous Middle East economic conferences in Casablanca, Cairo and Amman.

A cartoon in *al-Quds* found an original way to express its opinion on the value of the foreign ministers' decision. It showed the words "freedom of participation" on the naked behinds of two Arabs who read the document published after the meeting.

The absence of a unified Arab position towards the peace negotiations emboldened Israel to sow dissension among the Arab states, according to Ashraf al-Ajrani in the semi-official *al-Ayyem*. After each crisis in the peace negotiations the Palestinians have failed to unite the Arabs behind their case. "Arab leaders usually blame Israel for the repeated stalemate in the process, but have never translated their words into a coordinated action against Israel."

In praise of Azira Shamalya

The identification of 4 out of the 5 suicide bombers involved in the last two suicide attacks in

Jerusalem was another focus of the Palestinian newspapers. One aspect was the long and detailed news items and feature stories on the home village of the four, Azira Shamalya, north of Nablus. The newspapers described the current experience of the village under tight closure and the reactions of the families involved, as well as stories about the history of the place.

The official *al-Hayat al-Jadida*, for example, described in a long story the role of the village in the Palestinian national struggle throughout the 20th century, the special emphasis its residents have put on education and its reputation for producing high quality olive oil.

The issue also occupied the opinion pages. Commenting on Israel's success in identifying the four, *al-Quds* editorial rejected any violence and bloodshed, "but at the same time, collective punishment serves neither peace nor security and stability." The identification is not the end of the story, the tragic incidents are only the tip of the iceberg, the result of continued Palestinian suffering. "The only guarantee of security and stability, which Israel so much desires, is to provide the Palestinians with their legitimate rights."

Housing and hatred

The recent row over Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's conspicuous delight at widespread settlement housing construction covered all the front pages. "The time has come for the US to understand that the continuation of this policy might bring hell, war and bloodshed to the region to satisfy the radical Israeli right-wing," according to another *al-Quds* editorial. This Israeli policy threatens not only the peoples of the region but world interests.

The cartoonist Khalil Abu Arafat in *al-Quds* described Netanyahu as a Soviet-like general, decorated with one big medal: a house.

Visiting hours posted

Given the bad communication infrastructure and complicated relationship with the Israeli military government, the Palestinian newspapers also serve as a public bulletin board. The most important information in such sections of the Palestinian papers is a list of arrests and prison visiting hours.

Due to the recent intensive security activity against suspected terrorist cells, *al-Hayat al-Jadida* this week published a long list of Palestinians arrested and detained by Israel. It also included the names of Palestinians who were moved from one prison to another. These lists are usually prepared with the help of Israeli lawyers, who have easier access to the Israeli military authorities.

Advertisement for 'The Jerusalem Post' featuring a large headline 'Between wings' and 'y't memo: becoming mic guardian Jerusalem'. It includes a price tag of \$209,700 and a logo for 'IN JERUSALEM'.

Advertisement for Israel Discount Bank. It features a large image of a person's hand holding a document, with the text 'This visit, make a smart move.' Below this, it lists benefits of a new foreign currency account, including sound profits, V.I.P. benefits, and access to a bank's V.I.P. Club. It also mentions a smart move with sound profits, including additional interest of up to 0.4% on deposits of \$1000 and more. The ad includes the bank's logo and contact information for the International Division Business Promotion and Marketing Dept. in Ben-Yehuda St., Tel-Aviv 6343. Fax: 972(3)5216223. Fax: 972(3)5242343. E-mail: smm@servision.net.il.

Advertisement titled 'Those who live by the sword, die by the sword.' It discusses the history of Jewish groups in Israel, mentioning the Hagana, the Stern Gang, and the Irgun. It asks if the current Palestinian Government can control its population's actions better than the British or the less militant groups such as the Hagana. It also asks if anyone can expect different behavior from the Palestinians until they get their own sovereign country. The ad concludes with a question: 'What can Israelis expect from a people that is kept in subjugation? The basic human rights of close to one million people, and the four freedoms the United States promised the whole world are being denied. Arabs are killed and maimed. Their property and ability to earn a living are also being taken away. They are expected to be docile. But, how can anyone be docile if he has no hope for the future? Israel's present actions towards the Arabs are similar to the actions carried out against the Jews during centuries of persecution, as in czarist Russia.' It then asks: 'If a person's mother, brother, father or any other close relative were killed or even imprisoned, would not that person want revenge? Each one of Israel's actions provokes a reaction. Look at Bosnia, where even after generations people have not forgotten about retribution. And the more Israel takes action, the more people will hate and try to seek revenge. How can any Arab government - even Yasser Arafat's - be expected to control these individuals, who are without hope? Jews could not control their own underground, nor could England. England, and especially Ireland, cannot control the IRA, nor does anyone expect it to. Why then should anyone expect an Arab government to maintain control?' The ad is signed by 'The Committee for Sane Israeli Policy' at 223 Bee Hill Road, Williamstown, MA 01267, USA.



Histadrut staffers man the phones at strike headquarters yesterday.

(Basic Harari)

General strike is a boon to the malls

By ALLISON KAPLAN SOMMER

"Do you want to send a fax, sweetie?" Galit Zvi joked, intercepting her daughter Shaked, as the three-year-old made her way across the office towards the fax machine. Zvi, a Herzliya secretary, had brought her daughter to the office because the Histadrut general strike shut down her daughter's WIZO day care center.

A general strike, there was no problem; he could watch Shaked," said Zvi. "But he doesn't anymore, so we're just stuck." The strike affected the lives of families around the country yesterday morning, as parents scrambled to figure out how to care for their children while teachers struck. In several cases, like Zvi's, parents were forced into a near-impossible situation, and they did not appreciate it. "This is not the way to solve a work dispute," said Zvi.

"It doesn't matter what their demands are; they should work them out in negotiations, not through strikes like this which make everyone's lives difficult." Many parents, who were striking themselves, packed up their home-bound kids and headed to shopping malls for pre-holiday buying sprees. Hana Levy, a teacher from Petah Tikva, brought her daughter, Yael, 2, to the Shalom Mall in Kfar Sava. "I'm not particularly in favor of striking as a bargaining tactic,"

admitted Levy. "I think that there is no reason the children should suffer... But... as long as I'm striking, I might as well take advantage of it and have a pleasant day at the mall with my daughter." A nnie Gedali, a salesclerk in the same mall, said, "We've had a triple whammy... First the holidays coming up, then the strike, and finally, the first rain of the season happening today, so parents can't take their kids to the park. Yes, business is going to be very good today."

Peled blasted for considering random drug tests in schools

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

A suggestion by Deputy Education Minister Moshe Peled to conduct random urine tests on pupils to identify drug users was blasted yesterday by the Knesset Education Committee and the National Council for the Child.

Peled told committee members that the idea of conducting the tests came to him from pupils concerned about protecting themselves against other pupils they know who are drug users.

Peled said that it had been found that such testing was illegal, but he added that if pupils requested it and parents agreed, he supported the idea, if only as a deterrent.

"Drug testing of pupils is what we'd expect in totalitarian states," committee chairman MK Emanuel Zissman responded. "The State of Israel, which is a democratic state which protects the rights of its citizens will in no way agree to undermining them, including the rights of pupils."

"Even the police don't conduct urine tests on pupils suspected of taking drugs. So we should start conducting them on pupils, most of whom do not use them and aren't suspected of doing so?"

"This simply makes no sense. We will reject any attempt to interfere with the pupils and their

rights. It's disturbing that [Peled] thinks that we should carry out such testing, if such a thing were possible, and we will see to it that this remains in the realm of his own opinion."

MK Ruby Rivlin (Likud) said that "sometimes there is a dilemma between the individual's rights, and the public's right to defend itself against dangers. We must fight the drug scourge, and there are many ways to do so, not necessarily urine tests."

Moshe Sheinfeld of the National Parents Association said that instead of urine tests, the Education Ministry should increase the budget for fighting drug use among pupils.

"The Education Ministry's budget for fighting drugs not only wasn't increased, but cut. Two-thirds of the counselors were fired, and NIS 8 million cut," he said.

In any event, Sheinfeld said parents would not agree to such testing.

Oded Coheo, chairman of the National Student and Youth Council, said that he was glad the idea had come from pupils interested in fighting drug use, "but this is a long way from a wide-ranging order to carry out tests on all the pupils."

Kenven Goldschmidt, chief medical officer in the Internal

Security Ministry, said that experience showed that enforced testing wasn't useful in stopping drug use, "since the problematic individuals manage to avoid it."

Meanwhile a spokesman for the National Council for the Child noted that the UN charter on children's rights, to which Israel is a signatory, states clearly that no child will be subjected to arbitrary invasions of his or her privacy, and illegal damage to his reputation, a spokesman for the National Council for the Child wrote in response to Peled's idea.

"Such tests are illegal and violate the pupils' right to privacy and respect, and arbitrarily and completely besmirch the reputations of pupils who have nothing to do with drugs. We seriously doubt this suggestion would stand up in the High Court of Justice," the spokesman wrote.

There is certainly no justification for conducting regular urine testing of individuals based on a simple list of names without any real reason to suspect those being tested, the council spokesman said.

"No one in a democratic country would consider conducting arbitrary urine testing among adults, such as Education Ministry workers," the spokesman said.

Sanitary conditions in government hospitals threaten patients' health

By JUDY SIEGEL

Patients in government hospitals face the growing risk of infections from a deteriorating sanitary condition due to the strike by cleaning workers, which will continue today.

Maintenance, administrative and technical staff in the state hospitals, are protesting against 1,500 unmaned job slots. Health Minister Yehoshua Matza said

he opposed seeking back-to-work orders against the state hospital workers and demanded that the Treasury enter immediate negotiations.

"It is unthinkable that in such a serious situation with real danger to patients, the Treasury should again take the authority and run away from responsibility," he said.

Minimal services by the administrative and maintenance workers have resulted in the cancellation of all but emergency

operations, halted the supply of clean laundry and reduced food services in the wards. Garbage is heaping up and toilets are filthy.

In Safed, Sieff Hospital director Dr. Kalin Shapira said that the nurses are trying to alleviate the patients' suffering.

Only intensive care, emergency, dialysis, neonatal, oncology, delivery and cardiology departments are functioning at close-to-normal capacities.

Meanwhile, day hospitals and all diagnostic institutes in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv-area hospitals will be shut down today as part of sanctions by the Israel Medical Association. The doctors are striking because the Treasury has failed to implement an agreement it signed last March to increase the number of doctors' job slots by 360 over the next four years.

The doctors' strike has entered its third week. Hadassah-University hospitals in Ein

Kerem and Mt. Scopus, Shaare Zedek and Bikur Holim hospitals in Jerusalem, Josephthal in Eilat, Barzilai in Ashkelon and Soroka in Beersheba are affected today, along with Ichilov in Tel Aviv, Wolfson in Holon, Assaf Harofeh in Tzrifin, Kaplan in Rehovot and the Shmuel Harofeh geriatric hospital in Be'er Ya'acov.

The closed institutes include cardiology, radiology, catheterization, gastro, genetics, electrophysiology of the eye,

ERG, EMG and EEG. Only emergency treatments will be performed today in these hospitals.

"Minister Matza said he supports the administrative and maintenance workers [in the state hospitals], and I welcome that. When he starts identifying with the doctors and professors, let him inform us," said IMA chairman Dr. Yoram Blachar. "In the meantime, there is no contact between us and the ministry."

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Senators ask Clinton to block assault weapons deal

By MARILYN HENRY

Senate opposition to the TAAS-Israeli Industries export of thousands of assault weapons to the US mounted over the weekend, when 30 senators asked President Bill Clinton to block the deal. *The Los Angeles Times* reported yesterday.

The sale of Uzis and Galils, which were modified to meet American requirements, had been approved by the US Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms. However, led by Sen. Dianne Feinstein of California, the senators sent Clinton a letter urging him to use his executive authority "to prevent this transfer of arms to American streets on behalf of public safety," the *Times* reported.

The weapons are becoming the test case of a 1994 American law barring assault weapons. "This is exactly what we feared when we were writing the law - that manufacturers would make modifications to their weapons... so that the law would have no practical effect," said Sen. Robert Torricelli, of New Jersey.

"Israel pays a lot of attention to the mood and atmosphere on Capitol Hill and, of course, we see as serious the views expressed by such a respected group of senators," an Israeli spokesman in Washington said.

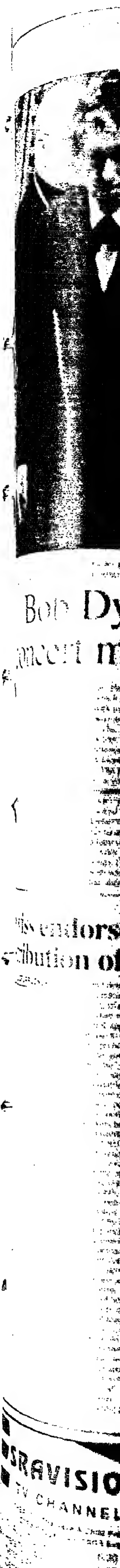
Feinstein has said that Israel is not being singled out, and that suspensions may be considered against more than a dozen other countries that possibly export these "copied assault weapons" to the US, the newspaper reported.

Although American gun manufacturers also produce copied assault weapons, Feinstein said she is focusing on imported weapons because the president has broader authority to act against them.

The National Rifle Association, a powerful lobby, opposes any restrictions on assault weapons.

Torricelli, Minority Leader Tom Daschle of South Dakota, Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts, and Richard Durbin of Illinois were among those signing the letter.

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A political apology

Labor Party leader Ehud Barak's pre-Rosh Hashana apology to Jews from Arab countries who immigrated at the founding of the State — like all political apologies — is a strange animal. Personal and public morality are not equivalent, even in an ideal sense, so concepts borrowed from personal morality do not always translate successfully to the public sphere.

People normally apologize to each other for acts they personally committed; political apologies for historic sins are rarely, if ever, made by leaders who were directly responsible for the acts in question. The political apology might benefit its recipients, but it is at the expense of the place in history of previous generations.

In the case of Barak, the Labor Party, and the Sephardim, the effort to translate the personal to the political is particularly strained. Barak, first of all, is so new to the party which he leads that his apology on behalf of the Labor Party "over the generations" strikes many in his own party as presumptuous.

Second, the discrimination and paternalism that he is apologizing for was not a policy of the Labor Party, but a societal phenomenon of that time that may have been embodied by the Labor establishment, but was not limited to any political party.

Third, the fact that the apology is directed toward a population that is critical to Labor's electoral future renders its principal motive somewhat transparent.

However problematic the source and motivation of the apology may be, the claim that an apology to Sephardi immigrants is a worthless gimmick is itself misplaced.

Yes, the Sephardim were not the only group that the reigning ethos of the ideal Israeli ran roughshod over; Yiddish-speaking Holocaust survivors also found themselves falling short of the pioneering image of the "sabrah." But the paternalism and cultural imperialism that confronted the Sephardi immigrants of the '50s was in a class of its own, and has left more lasting scars on a population which arrived here with high hopes and dreams.

To apologize for wrongs committed does not negate the sentiments expressed in response by Shimon Peres, that when he looks back at that period he is "filled with pride" at the party's accomplishments. On the other hand, an apology alone will not repair the alienation that Sephardim feel from the Labor party. Labor's lack of support from Sephardim may begin with the historic abrasion that Barak is seeking to heal, but today the gulf has as much to do with Labor's current perceived hostility to traditional Judaism and naivete about the Arab world. It is more than historic injustice that leaves so many Sephardim feeling out of place in the Labor Party.

If Barak's move turns out to be politically astute, it will be because he recognizes that a broad clash of values and lack of respect have kept Sephardim away from Labor. Even though many Sephardim will dismiss the apology as a shallow public relations stunt, many will also recognize an attempt to redress this deficit with respect.

As Yosef Sariki, the Labor Party secretary in Netivot, where Labor officially adopted its apology resolution yesterday, said, "The party invested in roads — not in people." In other words, the previous Labor government's attempt to buy the Sephardi vote by investing in development towns did not work, because it did not address a sense of alienation at least as powerful as the sense of being left behind economically.

The approach of throwing money at Sephardim did not work because it was recognized as today's form of paternalism. In this respect, both parties are missing the boat, since neither has broken with the top-down, statist model of economic development that equates bailing-out bloated regional governments with helping people.

With his apology, Barak has gained the attention of Sephardim, if not yet their trust or respect. To really turn the corner, Barak has to convince not just Sephardim but Israelis generally there is more to his attempt to take a page from Bill Clinton's ("New Democrat") and Tony Blair's ("New Labor") playbooks. Barak has clearly studied — with reason — those two leaders' successful campaigns to jettison the baggage they inherited from their party's electorally suicidal leftist beats. Clinton and Blair did it by deftly demonstrating that they were not captives of their parties' left flanks.

As rocky as Netanyahu's tenure has been, he will be a tougher opponent than the literally tired Bush and Major administrations that Clinton and Blair replaced.

Though Barak's apology (even at the expense of others) took a certain amount of guts, it is only a signpost towards the more substantial moves he will have to make to define himself in the public mind as a different sort of Labor politician.

The wrong tactic

YOSEF GOELL

Two weeks before last year's elections, Labor's candidate for the premiership, Shimon Peres, traveled especially to the Northern Negev development town of Netivot to obtain the blessing of one of the town's Moroccan-origin gurus, Baba Baruch. The Baba Baruch who has developed an impressive operation in that poverty and unemployment stricken

neglect and ill-treatment they had gotten from the Labor establishment which ruled the country for its first three decades.

Yesterday, Barak also convened a session of the party's convention in Netivot, after first ensuring that it would publicly endorse his apology. Barak's approach is both mistaken and irresponsible in a man who is seeking to lead the nation. The crude electoral pitch in his ploy is too transparent to make it effective in winning back "Moroccan" voters.

But his approach is also wrong because it is premised on a fallacious reading of the history of the 1950s and '60s. The giveaway to the elusiveness of the electoral pitch was Barak's resort to the redundancy of apologizing to the "immigrants from the Arab countries and from North Africa." The Jewish Diasporas of the Maghreb were of course part of that much larger ethnic grouping of Jews from the Arab and Moslem lands. Barak resorted to that redundancy because Labor's main electoral problem has been not so much with the Sephardim, in general, as in the case of the large community of immigrants from Iraq, but specifically with the descendants of the immigrants from Morocco.

The crude electoral pitch in Barak's ploy is too transparent to make it effective in winning back "Moroccan" voters

township ever since he completed serving his sentence for fraud, delivered the blessing. In the May 29 elections, Netivot's voters, the vast majority of whom are of North African extraction, proceeded to vote 88:11 percent for Netanyahu over Peres, and 30:4 percent for the Likud over Labor to the Knesset, with Shas getting the biggest vote.

Ever since his defeat by the Likud's Manachem Begin in the 1977 elections, Peres has based his electoral strategy on the axiom that Labor must go to extreme lengths to win the votes of the Sephardim (a misnomer for the immigrants from the Moslem countries) and the religious voters. Despite that strategy, he lost five out of five, with the overwhelming majority of religious and Sephardi voters shunning Labor.

Ehud Barak, who replaced Peres as Labor's leader only three months ago, is in the process of repeating Peres' basic mistakes. On Thursday, Barak came out with an apology in the name of the Labor Party and its Mafpai and Alignment predecessors, to the "Sephardi immigrants from the Arab countries and from North Africa" and their descendants, begging forgiveness for the

Dry Bones



immigrant groups. The especially tragic aspect of the Moroccan aliya as opposed to nearly all the others was that they had been abandoned by their own elites and natural leadership, nearly all of whom had migrated to France while sending the most poverty stricken and premodern members of their own communities to a dirt-poor Israel. They were thus less capable of fighting for their interests against the absorbing Israeli bureaucracy, which was largely made up of other new immigrants, including many from the Arab lands.

If there is an apology called for it may be for David Ben-Gurion's "inhuman cruelty" in insisting on the unrestricted and unselective aliya of all Jews even from the most primitive of countries, who were guaranteed to be in for an especially hard time in a fast modernizing Israel. I'm sure that neither Barak, nor his North African

audiences really intend or want an apology for one of Ben-Gurion's greatest decisions. Barak's pitch was also irresponsible because it adds fuel to the ethnic fires in the country. If there is any one social problem in Israel that is well on the way to disappearance it is the ethnic animosity between Sephardi and Ashkenazi Jews. These tensions were extreme until a decade and a half ago. And although professional ethnic politicians periodically attempt to fan those flames, there has been a vast improvement in this recent period. Labor's early leadership was correct in fostering a sense of new nationhood and the forging of a new common culture. That is still the right direction to take instead of abetting nostalgia for our old separate Diaspora tribal cultures.

The writer comments on public affairs.

Not just follow the leader

PINHAS INBARI AND ZIV HELLMAN

The recent reports of Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat's imminent demise now appear to have been exaggerated. He may not be in perfect health, but on the other hand he will probably be hale enough to continue to lead the Palestinians for a good few years.

But one result of the spate of conjectures surrounding Arafat's health was that it unleashed speculation over who would replace the aging chairman. This talk is interesting because of what it reveals about significant questions facing the Palestinian Authority.

The succession has been regarded by the media as if it were merely a personnel question. Various names have been trotted out as potential Arafat replacements — Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen), Farouk Kaddoumi, Ahmed Qurei (Abu Ala), Faisal Russeini, Jibril Rajoub. Few noted that the real question facing Palestinian society is not who will replace Arafat but rather what — that is, will Arafat's replacement be a clone of his predecessor, or will a real change in the PA's governing culture occur? The current regime fails to meet the minimal criteria necessary for the sustained development of a properly functioning democratic society.

The Palestinian Elections Law, which was adopted by the PA shortly before the elections a year and a half ago, and which received

the formal endorsement of an international body of observers, contained explicit instructions regarding the method by which the succession is to be effected.

According to its provisions, the Speaker of the Palestinian Legislative Council — presently Abu Ala — is to automatically take over the duties of the chairman and prepare for new elections in the event the office is vacated. Today, Abu Ala is the main proponent for democratic reform. If he oversees the succession according to the Elections Law, the next Palestinian leadership will draw its legitimacy from the elected legislative council. Such an event would signify a new democratic precedent in the Arab world.

All of this looks wonderfully heart-warming on paper, but not everyone in the PA — or in Israel, it appears — is so enamored with the idea of a full democracy emerging in the Palestinian autonomy, least of all Arafat himself. According to Palestinian sources, Arafat recently initiated a "secret" amendment to the law, establishing that the acting chairman upon Arafat's leaving office will not be the Speaker of the Legislative Council but rather the secretary-general of the PLO's executive committee, currently Abu Mazen.

While Kaddoumi was appointed head of the Palestinian economic council PECDAR, he surprised many by openly confronting Arafat and endorsing Abu Ala's contention that the PA accept World Bank conditions of transparency and accountability with respect to donor funds.

Kaddoumi's possible comeback has one additional significance — it could be a harbinger of increased Syrian involvement in the peace process. Kaddoumi is the only high ranking PLO member connected to Syria, and some of his hard-line opinions reflect this. As long as Syria kept out of the peace process, Kaddoumi also maintained a low profile. His sudden reappearance among political gossips indicates that Syria is beginning to take an interest in the peace process.

The struggle over the Palestinian succession goes far beyond a conflict between individuals. It contains within it significant questions regarding the future of reforms in the PA as well as the interests of a number of nations in the region.

The writers are, respectively, director of research and senior researcher at the Institute for Peace Implementation, a Jerusalem-based think-tank studying permanent status issues.

The cult of the body

CHARLES KRAUTHAMMER

For a long time — from the counterculture of the 1960s until, well, yesterday — it was pretty easy to tell conservatives from liberals. Conservatives were the folks who told you how to live your personal life. Liberals were the ones who told government and everybody else to lay off and leave you to your own space.

Conservatives went around promoting virtue and regulating vice: pornography, drugs, illegitimacy and the like. Liberals stood for self-expression and autonomy. The "right to choose" is quintessentially liberal, whether it be abortion or euthanasia or, as they say today, whatever.

Then came tobacco. Liberals, who had developed a 30-year reputation for being soft on drugs and crime and polymorphous perversities that even Freud could not have imagined, all of a sudden became caped crusaders. When it comes to smoking, they are bluenose prohibitionists. This seems odd. Liberals have always looked down their noses at any kind of prohibition, whether it was alcohol in the '20s or abortion today. They're for choice, are they not? But as smokers are chased out of their offices and banished from polite society, what little pro-smoking resistance there is comes

from the Right: from libertarians, from free market conservatives, and from traditionalists lamenting the state's forced extirpation of a venerable and private habit.

SO what happened to liberals? My theory is this: Liberals have watched, astonished, as for decades conserva-

the body, their temple. No concern about right behavior? Not us, say the liberals. We too believe in virtue. No smoking! And that's just for starters. We are going to teach your kids safe sex, take Alar off their apples, feed them yogurt and broccoli for lunch, and, for the ride home, lash

In a political era demanding more public displays of piety and morality, liberals can now enthusiastically declare: We got religion too

tives thrived politically by showing concern for individual behavior. After years of deriding conservative moralizing, liberals now are playing catch-up. Hence, for example, their slavish, often comical, adoption of the language of "family values."

Now, if you have any doubts about the liberals' newfound religiosity, take in a sex education class at your kids' school. The hour is not devoted to biblical/Victorian/traditional morality. Sure, the kids are taught do's and don'ts. It's just that the don'ts are not actions that damn your eternal soul but behaviors that doom your precious body. The core of the modern sexual code is disease prevention. The reason your little ones are taught the proper placement of a condom over a banana is to protect them from sexually transmitted diseases. With AIDS as a foil, sex ed is not a form of moral education. It is a branch of hygiene. As are the other liberal virtues. Like the mania for health foods, it feeds a nutritional fanaticism and fastidiousness that makes Islamic and Jewish dietary prohibitions look positively, well, liberal. In elite society, thinness is not just attractive but virtuous, a sign of self-denial and strength of character. Fitness is not just aesthetically pleasing; it is a moral failing. Temptation no longer comes in the form of the devil. It comes in the form of dessert. This cult of the body is the perfect successor to the culture of narcissism of the Me Generation. Its genius is to take the stigma out of self-love and turn it into virtue. Its beauty is to take health and hygiene — perfectly good things, mind you — and make them a religion. In a political era demanding more public displays of piety and morality, liberals can now enthusiastically declare: We got religion too.

Washington Post Writers Group

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PRIVATE MEDICAL CENTERS

Sir, — I read with great interest "Private hospital for public health" (September 14) written by your respected journalist Ms. Siegel-Itzkovich.

The article is entirely devoted to the achievements of the Herzliya Medical Center, which apparently disclosed the secret that "medicine is a business." It describes how this and the Haifa Medical Center, "built with funds from South African investors," perform sophisticated procedures such as open-heart surgery, ophthalmic laser therapy, CT scanning, run "American style" laboratories, etc., and sell services also to "medical tourists." Unfortunately, one important aspect is missing in this article — the fact that these centers don't provide emergency services to the public.

All hospitals in Israel, whether owned by the government or by the health funds, are strictly supervised by the Ministry of Health for providing 24-hour emergency services, 365 days a year. With this most expensive day-and-night service we truly serve

the medical needs of the public, not only when disease strikes at night, but also when enemies strike suddenly and unexpectedly.

On the other hand, the private Herzliya and Haifa "Medical Centers" are totally free from this duty and they can choose for themselves the services they are giving. Of course, they choose only services that are money-makers, "skimming" thereby, the very thin layer of fat which may exist in our hospital system.

Unfortunately, our Health Ministry is looking the other way and licenses these "medical centers" without demanding from them what it demands from all other hospitals. This undoubtedly worsens the bad financial situation of those hospitals which give exemplary day/night emergency services to the citizens of Israel.

PROF SHLOMO STERN Medical Director Bikur Holim Hospital Jerusalem

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

Sir, — For how much longer shall we see our children as cannon fodder in an endless war in Lebanon? For how much more time shall we cry at funerals for our fallen flowers in a more and more hopeless war?

We have been in Lebanon for more than 15 years, losing more than 1,200 of our best sons. In average nearly 100 a year. Several times we have even made "all-out wars" up there, but to no avail. Shortly afterwards we were back again to square one.

Our enemies have no respect for human lives. Their fallen boys are martyrs and their parents celebrate. All of Israel mourns every one of our fallen soldiers.

Enough is enough. Let us withdraw from Lebanon now, unilaterally if it cannot be otherwise. Let us admit it: We are in a quagmire up there, from which we soon will not be able to get out in honor.

BEN SCHALIMTZER Ra'anana

US JEWS

Sir, — In the early Sixties, I frequented the home of the chief rabbi of Israel, Rabbi Yitzhak Nissim, for many a Shabbat kiddush, when he hosted guests from abroad, usually Americans. His standard comment to them was to encourage them to come on aliya.

On one occasion when senator Jacob Javitz of New York came to

celebrate his son's bar mitzva in Jerusalem, the Sephardi chief rabbi commented that he usually tried to encourage Jews to come on aliya, but in the case of senator Javitz, he wished him continued success in his efforts for the people of Israel as a member of the US Senate.

There are many such people, among them Irving Moskowitz,

who help Israel in ways that they could not if they were based in Israel. We here should be careful about attacking involvement of American Jews in Israeli politics.

YONATAN BEN'ARI Efrat

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

60 years ago: On September 29, 1937, The Palestine Post reported that the government offered £10,000 reward to anyone who could offer information leading to the apprehension of murderers of Mr. L. Andrews, Galilee District Commissioner, and his escort. The Yishuv expressed shock and sincere condolences to Mr. Andrews' family. The Farmers Federation recalled the valuable services rendered by Mr. Andrews to the development of agriculture.

25 years ago: On September 29, 1972, The Jerusalem Post reported that Egypt's President Anwar Sadat called on Palestinians to form a government in exile to stop them from being "eliminated" at the hands of the US, Israel and Jordan.

Arab states obstruct peace while Cairo and Beirut are terror centers, argued foreign minister Abba Eban in his address to the UN General Assembly.

French police sought a Japanese man and an Arab woman who were reported to

have offered Sima Lipavovskiy, an Israeli woman, a \$200 bribe to take a parcel to Israel aboard an El Al plane.

The Uruguayan Government announced that an Arab "Black September" group was operating there and six explosive envelopes addressed to members of the local Jewish community had been intercepted.

Education minister Yigal Alon said that the lengthened school day had not produced the desired results.

Alexander Zvielli

Punitive Damages

Crime Keeps On Falling, but Prisons Keep On Filling

By FOX BUTTERFIELD

It has become a comforting story: for five straight years, crime has been falling, led by a drop in murder.

So why is the number of inmates in prisons and jails around the nation still going up? Last year, it reached almost 1.7 million, up about seven percent a year since 1990.

The question is not merely a trick quiz, because the costs of running America's constantly expanding prison system — now more than \$30 billion a year — have begun to impose an enormous burden on state governments.

Already, California and Florida spend more to incarcerate people than to educate their college-age populations.

In California, where the number of prisoners has grown from 19,000 two decades ago to 150,000 today, the

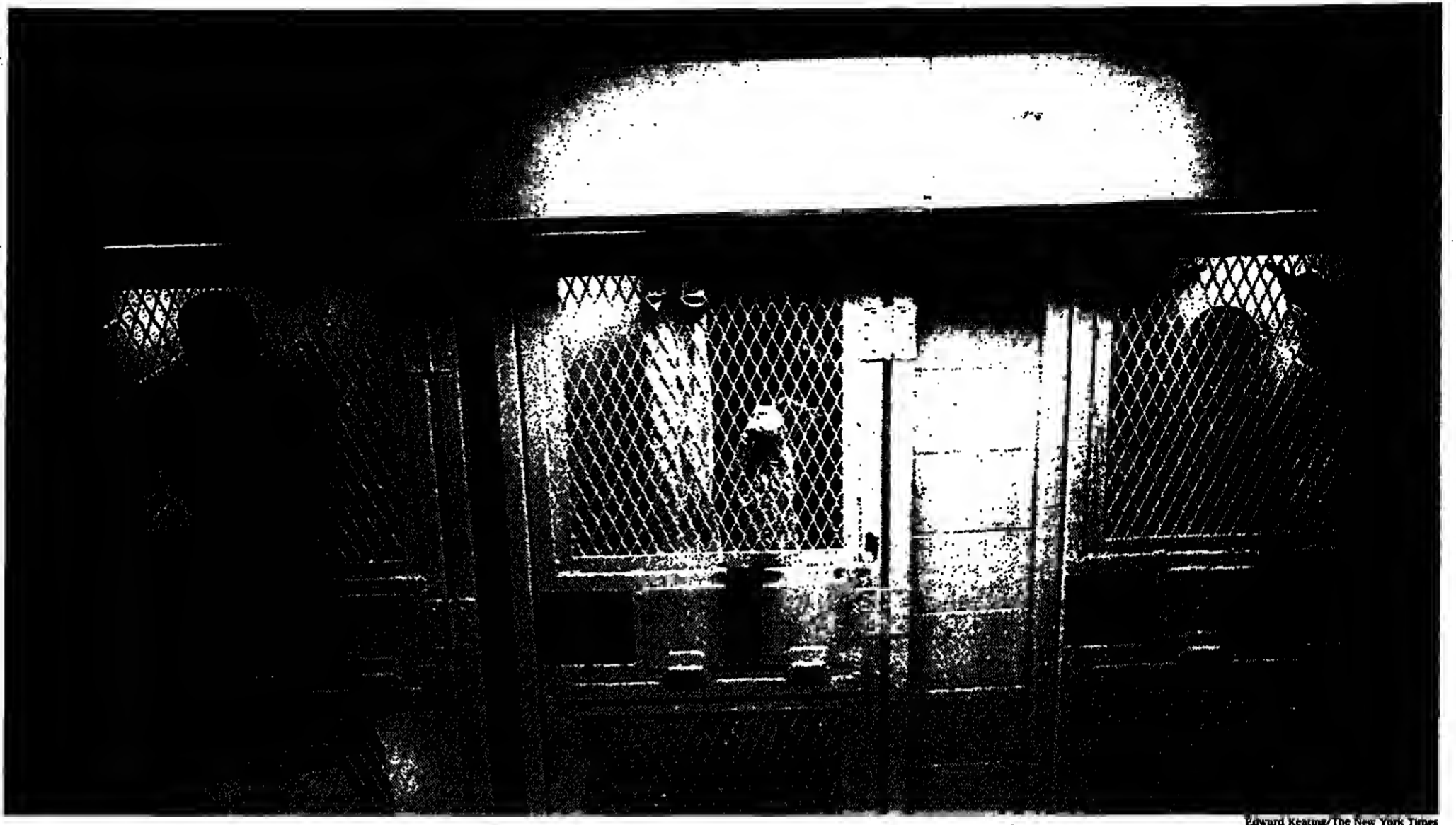
A system eager to lock up criminals gets them back, again and again.

state now faces a crisis because it is caught between voters' refusal to approve more money for prison construction and an expected huge influx of inmates over the next few years as more and more tough sentencing laws take effect. The California Department of Corrections has projected that it will run out of space in barely more than two years.

The North Carolina legislature recently adopted sentencing guidelines for judges based on a computer model showing how much bed space is available in the state's prisons, much like a hotel reservation system.

Growth Industry

Some poor towns, from Tupper Lake, N.Y., in the Adirondacks to Edgefield, S.C., are cashing in on the prison boom, having successfully competed to be the sites of new prisons, with all the jobs they bring, just as states have dined with each other for new German or Japanese automobile factories.



Life behind bars, for more and more men, has become a way of life. Shower rooms at the Rikers Island jail in New York.

Since 1990 alone, the number of prison and jail guards nationwide has increased by about 30 percent, to more than 600,000.

Of course, the huge increase in the number of inmates has helped lower the crime rate by incapacitating more criminals behind bars, though there is no generally accepted way to measure the impact; crime rose sharply in the mid- and late 1980's, for example, even as the rate of imprisonment rose much faster.

But a growing number of criminologists say they are troubled by evidence that the spiraling growth of prisons is also causing unintended

consequences that may actually contribute to increased crime as well as undermine families and inner-city neighborhoods.

Home and Back

Foremost among these developments, the experts say, is that the prison boom has created its own growth dynamic.

The larger the number of prisoners, the bigger the number of people who will someday be released, and then, either because of their own criminal propensities or their experience behind bars, will be likely to

commit new crimes and to be re-arrested. A growing number of these former inmates are being reincarcerated for parole or probation violations, often a result of failing a urinalysis test for drugs.

The number of criminals being sent to prison for the second or more time has increased steadily, rising to 35 percent of the total number of admissions in 1995 from 18 percent in 1980, said Allen J. Beck, chief of corrections statistics at the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the statistical branch of the Justice Department.

As the number of prisoners continues to grow, some neighborhoods and

cities feel dramatic effects. A study of Washington, D.C., issued last month found that half of black men there between the ages of 18 and 35 are under the control of the criminal justice system on any given day, either in prison or jail, on probation or

Vanishing Stigma

"This suggests to me that we are weakening the role of the criminal justice system," said Alfred Blumstein, a criminologist at Carnegie Mellon University, because it was meant to deter crime by stigmatizing people with the threat of imprison-

ment. "But we have now locked up so many people that we have lost the stigmatizing effect."

At the same time, Mr. Blumstein said, by imprisoning such a large number of people, especially young black males, "we have disrupted families and built up strong connections between criminal groups in prison and on the street."

"All this contributes to high rates of crime in inner-city communities," Mr. Blumstein said.

There are several reasons why the prison population is continuing to

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It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World

You're Not Bad, You're Sick. It's in the Book.

By JOE SHARKEY

EXPERTS warn that road rage is at epidemic levels on America's highways. In a recent study, the American Automobile Association found a 51 percent increase since 1990 in incidents of motorists behaving in an overtly hostile manner.

Crazy drivers, one might say. Precisely, says Dr. Arnold Nerenberg, a clinical psychologist in Whittier, Calif., who has a weekly radio program in which he discusses road rage as a certifiable mental illness.

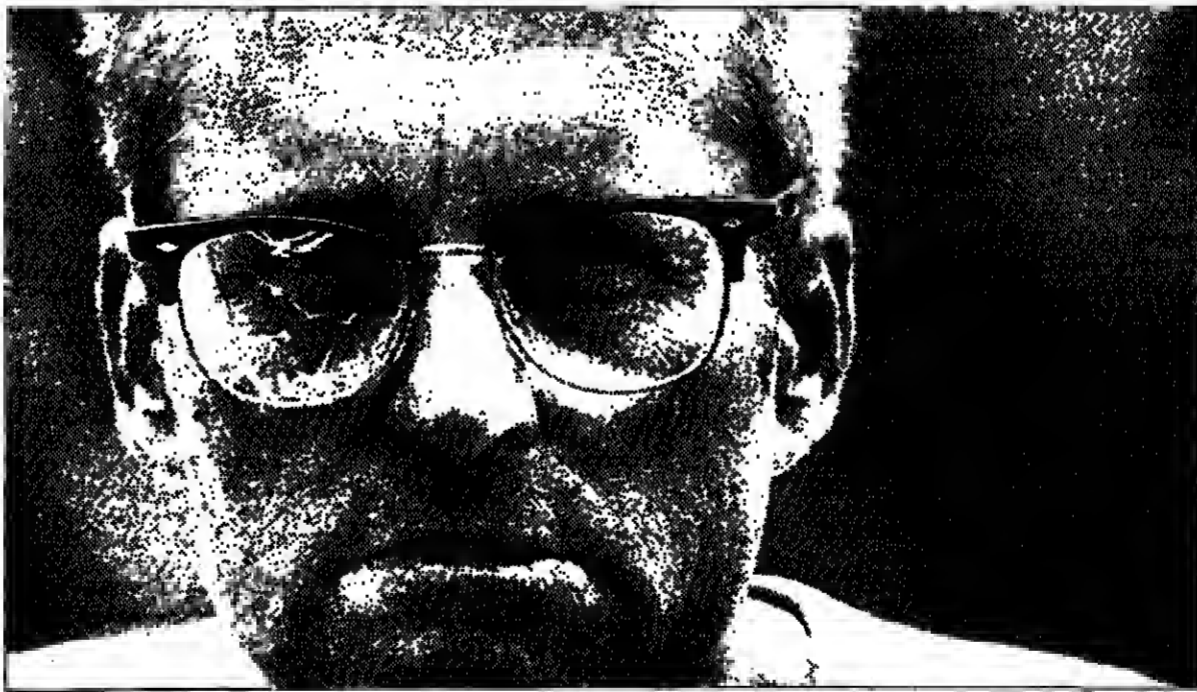
With advocates like Dr. Nerenberg and help from state and Federal research grants intended to combat the increase in highway fatalities attributed to aggressive driving, road rage may be a disorder whose time has come. Dr. Nerenberg and other therapists firmly believe that road rage is on its way to certification as an official mental disorder in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders.

Hundreds of Disorders

The D.S.M., as insiders call it, is the 886-page clinical bible put out by the American Psychiatric Association and used by psychiatrists and other therapists to identify a set of behaviors as a mental illness. If road rage is ultimately included in the revisions of the D.S.M. that are now being reviewed, it will join more than 300 other disorders certified as mental diseases.

The D.S.M., currently in its fourth edition, classifies serious mental illnesses like psychoses and schizophrenia, but critics say it also medicalizes many behaviors once considered traceable to character flaws.

Many new disorders develop powerful lobbies in the therapeutic and political worlds, critics say, because of the D.S.M.'s far-reaching influence on health-care spending. "Inclusion in the D.S.M. is the key that opens the strongbox; you cannot bill for treatment without using



In "Falling Down," Michael Douglas played a man unhinged by a traffic jam and beset by debilitating rage.

it," said Dr. Thomas S. Szasz, a Syracuse psychiatrist and the author of "The Myth of Mental Illness," the landmark 1961 book that argued that psychiatry consistently expands its definition of mental illness to impose its authority over moral and cultural conflict.

Americans spend nearly \$1 trillion annually on health care, and the mental health industry is lobbying

the Federal and state governments to require health insurers and health maintenance organizations to cover treatment for mental disorders on a par with physical disease and injury. Critics maintain that the D.S.M. is a powerful marketing machine that slices off ever-greater chunks of money from overall health care spending.

"There is a clear motive for defining new mental

disorders and marketing psychotropic medications for adults," said Herb Kutchins, a professor of social work at California State University in Sacramento and the co-author, with Stuart A. Kirk, of the forthcoming "Making Us Crazy: D.S.M. — the Psychiatric Bible and the Creation of Mental Disorders" (Free Press). Mr. Kutchins noted that as recently as 18 years ago, the D.S.M. had only 106 mental disorders, while in the mid-19th century, before the D.S.M., the Federal Government recognized only one: idiocy/insanity. Now, he added, less money is available to treat those with serious, debilitating mental illnesses whose sufferers have little clout.

Legal Benefits

D.S.M. certification of a disorder can also have legal benefits. Recently, after a young woman in New Jersey was charged with suffocating her newborn baby in a bathroom while attending her senior prom, some therapists suggested that women charged with killing infants shortly after birth might be suffering from "brief psychotic disorder with postpartum onset," which the D.S.M. says is characterized by "emotional turmoil" following childbirth. (Postpartum syndrome has sometimes been invoked successfully as a legal defense.)

To argue its way into the D.S.M., an aspiring disorder needs voluminous field research indicating that it exists as a set of pathological symptoms by a significant number of people. An ardent lobby among therapists is essential, as is a campaign of publicity in the press.

Road rage disorder is the current favorite in the pack of hopeful jockeying for position. "Road rage disorder has been put into play," said Dr. Nerenberg. As he defines it, road rage is "showing anger toward another driver" for something that driver did on the road, and is characterized by such reactions as rude gestures, hostile stares, shouting, horn-blowing and aggressive maneuver-

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Risk Factor

Thalidomide's return raises issues too awful to contemplate.

By Sheryl Gay Stolberg

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Man of the World For Ted Turner, charity begins far, far from home.

By Kevin Sack

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Hard Sell

Good times. Big cars. Why fuss about global warming?

By Andrew C. Revkin

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The Nation

Hawaii Bucks the Trend on Welfare Reform

By RACHEL L. SWARNS

As stricter welfare rules sweep across the country, one state after another is celebrating its shrinking rolls. In Wyoming, the number of welfare recipients has declined 68 percent from four years ago. In Oregon, 48 percent. In New York, 12 percent.

Then there's Hawaii. The state is the only one in the nation to record a steady annual increase in the number of welfare recipients since 1993, Federal officials say. When Hawaiians describe the 36 percent change in their welfare population, they're talking increase, not decrease.

"Everyone's asking, 'What's happening in Hawaii?'" said Dennis Arakaki, a Hawaii state legislator who fielded the awkward question over and over again at a recent meeting of state officials from all over the country. "I say, 'Gee, I wish we had better things to report.' Unfortunately, we don't

Relief rolls keep rising in a state that persists in unfashionable generosity to the poor.

have better things to report."

No one knows exactly why Hawaii has emerged as the exception to the national rule. (Alaska's rolls, which have gone up and down during the same period, are about 5 percent higher than they were four years ago.) But the situation seems to stem from a complicated mix of the state's economic struggles and its reluctance to push people off welfare, two factors that also run counter to national trends.

And while welfare experts remain divided about which factor has contributed most to Hawaii's surging caseload, they agree that finding the answer is critical.

Are Hawaiian officials and liberals right to blame the state's sagging economy, warning that other states will suffer similarly if their economies sour?

Or are conservatives right to wag their fingers at the state's politicians for refusing to adopt tough measures that have made it



At the capitol in Honolulu, a woman with her grandson protest proposed welfare cuts.

harder for poor people in other states to get welfare and keep it?

"A lot of people from other states are saying, 'We need to know why this is happening so we can avoid it here,'" said Jack Tweedie, who tracks welfare reform for the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Some experts argue that states should worry more about placing people in jobs and less about simply reducing caseloads, which may or may not mean that welfare recipients are actually finding work. The mere thought of rising caseloads gives fiscally-minded politicians the shivers. Under the new welfare law, states receive a fixed amount of Federal money based on previous spending, regardless of how many welfare recipients they serve.

So while states with shrinking welfare rolls now enjoy multimillion-dollar surpluses, Hawaii found itself with slightly less money this year to spend on more people. The state legislature came up with \$8 million to fill the gap. "Without that, we would really be hurting," said Kristine Foster, a welfare program administrator at Hawaii's Department of Human Services.

But Ms. Foster defends her state's decision to leave the welcome mat out for Hawaii's needy. In the face of an economic downturn, she says, the traditional, liberal concept of government support for the poor is an ideal worth clinging to.

"People say we're too generous, we're too nice," Ms. Foster said. "But a lot of people here feel that welfare reform is very punitive. We did not want to mirror that."

"We're trying to make people self-sufficient, but we're not interested in driving people to destitution," said Ms. Foster, who says she has no interest in pushing people off the rolls without some assurance that they have found work.

They Give at the Office

Ms. Foster blames the rise in welfare recipients — which surged from 54,511 to 73,893 between 1993 and 1997 — on the tourism slump that began in the 1990's and left the state's economy sputtering while much of the nation moved from recession to resurgence. About 6 percent of Hawaii's households receive welfare, slightly above the national average.

But she also acknowledges that Hawaii's liberal eligibility rules played a role. While other states force applicants to search for work before handing them a check, Hawaii

still gives out benefits on the first day an eligible applicant walks into the welfare office.

The state has also encouraged welfare recipients to stay on the rolls even after they find low-paying jobs, offering them reduced benefits to supplement their low salaries.

Last December, Hawaii switched course, introducing a tougher policy that slashed benefits by 20 percent to those welfare recipients who fail to find jobs within two months.

Velvet Glove

Ms. Foster said the stricter rules and an improving economy persuaded an additional 1,100 people to find work and helped slow the rise in the caseload. This year, she expects the number of people on public assistance to increase by only 1 percent.

Conservatives say that proves their point: that tough action, instead of letting families languish in government-sponsored dependency, reduces welfare rolls. "When you don't get tough, people stay on welfare," said Douglas J. Besharov, a resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute, a conservative research organization in Washington.

"The velvet glove just doesn't work," said Hawaii officials, who have historically held liberal views on social policy, say they're not ashamed of their more traditional approach. Their goal, they say, is not to simply push people off the rolls. Their goal is to push people into jobs. And on that count, they seem to be succeeding.

Under the new Federal welfare law, states must have 25 percent of their welfare recipients working this year. Despite the rise in caseload, Hawaii will meet the new Federal work participation rates. Twenty-seven percent of the state's welfare recipients are already working, Ms. Foster said, compared to 10 percent in 1995.

And this, some liberals say, should be the true measure of welfare reform: the number of people moving from welfare into work, not the number of people who have simply vanished from the rolls.

"The real problem is that everyone's competing to be the state with the biggest caseload decline," said Jodie Levin-Epstein, senior policy analyst at the Center for Law and Social Policy, a liberal research organization in Washington.

"Caseload decline can mean good things if it means that people are getting into jobs," she said. "But that's not necessarily the case."

Weighing Hope Against Horror

By SHERYL GAY STOLBERG

NOW that thalidomide, the drug that was banned worldwide in the 1960's after it produced 10,000 babies with missing and stunted limbs, is headed for approval by the Food and Drug Administration, Randy Warren has a question: Are the benefits of the world's most notorious sedative worth the risk that just one more baby will be born like him?

Mr. Warren, 36, a Canadian whose mother took the drug when she was pregnant, was born with flipperlike feet where his kneecaps should be, four fingers on each hand and severely deformed ears. He had 24 operations by the time he turned 16; he remains wheelchair bound and unable to perform simple tasks like buttoning up his shirt.

"One baby born for 100 lives extended?" he asked rhetorically last week, a few days after the F.D.A. announced that it intended to approve thalidomide for leprosy patients. "If there is a number, I would like to know what it is. How are you going to measure that?"

No one has performed such a cold-hearted risk-benefit analysis, of course, and no one intends to, which is precisely Mr. Warren's point. Yet in the contentious debate over the return of thalidomide, which holds promise as a treatment for maladies as diverse as AIDS, lupus and cancer, there is one point upon which nearly everyone agrees: more deformed babies will be born if the drug comes to market.

"There will be some slip-ups," predict-



A two-year-old thalidomide victim in Sweden in 1963.

ed Dr. Norman Foster, who directs the medical ethics program at the University of Wisconsin. "There is no policy that will produce zero." But no one, he added, is willing to answer the most volatile question of all: How many thalidomide babies is too many?

In part, this is because Americans don't like to confront risk, be it the danger of contaminated hamburger meat or automobile air bags. Dr. John Graham, director of the Center for Risk Analysis at Harvard University, says an honest intellectual discussion of thalidomide should include some numbers crunching. But he doesn't expect it: "We as a society do not want to face up to these numbers and their implications."

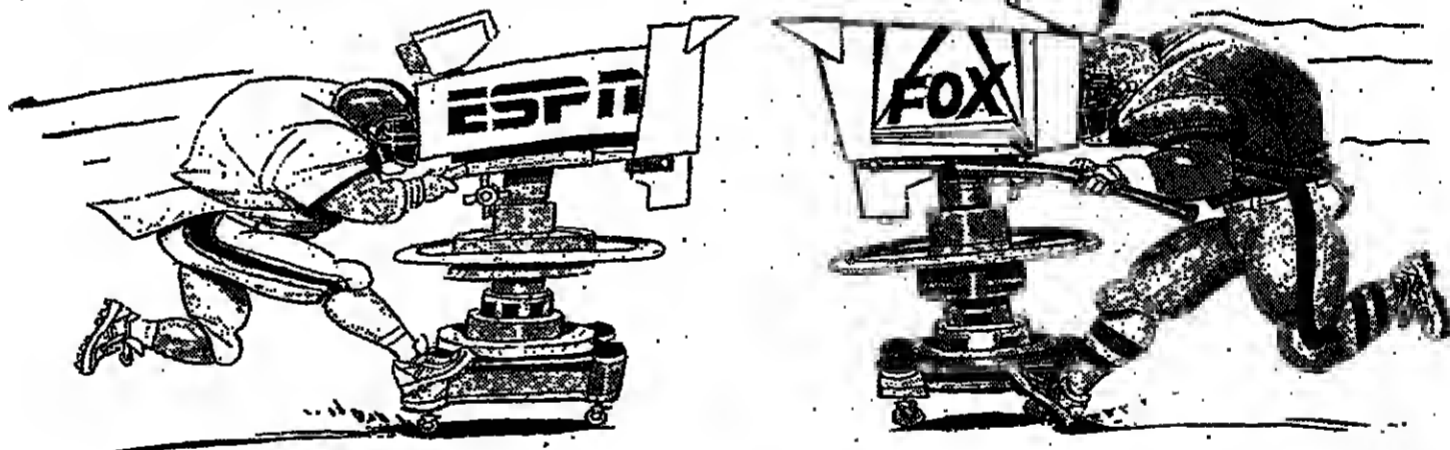
The drug's maker, the Celgene Corporation of Warren, N.J., maintains that it can't crunch any numbers, because no one knows how many babies might be born and the potential uses of thalidomide will grow as scientists discover more diseases for which the drug is useful. Instead, the company has focused on designing a plan to prevent birth defects.

The plan, which has drawn accolades from all sides, including from Mr. Warren, includes a variety of provisions. Pharmacies would register before dispensing the drug, and there would be no automatic refills. Female patients would have to show proof of contraception and undergo regular pregnancy tests, and education for doctors and patients would be mandatory, which experts say is critical given that so many Americans are too young to remember the thalidomide scare.

Still, the company is not foolhardy. "We have obtained product liability insurance," said Celgene's vice president for marketing, Bruce Williams, although he added that he does not believe more deformed babies are inevitable. "If I believed that," he said, "I would not be doing this."

Because no drug is 100 percent safe, the F.D.A. always weighs risks and benefits. The difference with thalidomide, according to Dr. Janet Woodcock, who directs the agency's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, is that the side effects don't injure the patient but another person, namely her child. Dr. Woodcock says the best the agency can do is to monitor thalidomide once it is on the market, and re-evaluate if too many accidents occur.

To Dr. Foster, that answer is not good enough. He would like the agency to confront the numbers question up front. "If there are 10, 20, 50 or 100 or 200 of these kids five years from now, we will all look back and have heart-wrenching symposia and TV specials on whether the right precautions were taken," he said. "So we should answer that question now."



Sports Networks Ready to Rumble

By MARK LANDLER

ALL politics is local, Tip O'Neill used to say. But what would that disheveled Red Sox fan have said of sports? Given the loyalty that sports fans in Boston and other cities have for their hometown teams, one might conclude that sports, too, is basically a local affair. But professional sports also creates genuinely national heroes like Tiger Woods. Even a perennially winning team, like the Chicago Bulls, can generate a national following.

Whether sports is a local or national phenomenon is more than grist for a slow night on WFAN talk radio. The issue is at the heart of an epic battle for supremacy in TV sports. The combatants are two vast media companies, Walt Disney and Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation, both of which are known for creating entertainment icons like Mickey Mouse and Bart Simpson that defy any sense of local identity.

Now those companies are fixing their sights on the flourishing sports business. And they are pursuing markedly different strategies. Disney's main vehicle is ESPN, the cable network it picked up in 1995 through its acquisition of ABC. With more than 70 million subscribers, ESPN is the undisputed leader in sports television. It is also the epitome of a national sports channel, covering sports with a broad brush much as Sports Illustrated and the broadcast networks did in previous decades.

But ESPN's primacy is coming under attack by Mr. Murdoch. His Fox TV network has been cobbling together regional sports networks around the country to create a loose federation of channels called Fox Sports Net. The aim is to exploit a perceived weakness to ESPN's coverage by offering home games to viewers in local markets.

Fox recently added New York's two regional sports networks, MSG and SportsChannel, by investing \$850 million in the parent company of the networks, Rainbow Programming. MSG will soon begin to intersperse its coverage of the Yankees with games from other cities and Fox's daily roundup program, "Fox Sports News."

"It is subtle," said David Hill, the chief

executive of Fox Sports and the architect of Mr. Murdoch's plan, "Sports are tribal. Fox Sports Net drives a fan's basic instincts of loyalty and ownership."

Mr. Murdoch has launched a blitz in recent months to snap up the channels and local sports franchises he needs to turn Fox Sports into a true rival of ESPN. In addition to Rainbow, Fox has a joint venture with cable giant Tele-Communications, which owns 10 regional sports networks through its programming arm, Liberty Media.

As if that's not enough, Mr. Murdoch this month agreed to pay \$350 million to acquire the Los Angeles Dodgers. He plans to use the team as the linchpin for Fox Sports West, his regional network in that market. In Los Angeles alone, Mr. Murdoch has locked up TV rights to all six of the city's pro teams: the Dodgers and Angels for baseball, the Lakers and Clippers for basketball, and the Kings and Mighty Ducks for hockey.

New Chapter

All told, Fox Sports controls more than 20 regional sports networks with almost 60 million cable subscribers. Mr. Hill said Fox planned to stamp these local channels with the same production style and edgy tone that characterizes the Fox network's coverage of football, baseball and hockey.

If Mr. Murdoch succeeds in his strategy of fashioning a national sports empire on the appeal of local games, he will write a new chapter in the annals of sports on television.

"There are differences between various sports, but the general direction of sports programming in this country has always been national," said Frank Deford, the former writer for Sports Illustrated who is now a columnist at Newsweek and a commentator on HBO and National Public Radio.

If any single date angred the era of national sports, it was Dec. 28, 1958, when the Baltimore Colts defeated the New York Giants in sudden death to win the championship of the infant National Football League. The game was televised nationally, and viewers from coast to coast thrilled at the heroics of the Colts' quarterback, Johnny Unitas. Sports Illustrated, which had been founded

four years earlier, dubbed it "the Greatest Game Ever Played." And together, Sports Illustrated and the Big Three networks presided over three decades in which football, basketball and baseball all became national sports.

But Sports Illustrated never parlayed its authoritative reputation into TV, and the networks began losing viewers to cable. In the 1980's ESPN grabbed the magazine's mantle as America's leading voice on sports. Only now is Sports Illustrated trying to catch up, starting a sports news network, CNN/SI, with a fellow Time Warner company, CNN.

For all its success, ESPN's approach to sports is still stubbornly conventional: It tries to get viewers in Miami or Los Angeles hooked on a game between teams in New York and Seattle. ESPN's secret was to develop a distinctive image, with wise-cracking commentators like the recently departed Keith Olbermann. The network's daily news program, "SportsCenter," has become a ritual for couch-bound jocks.

"ESPN has created a destination for sports fans, and they've been able to sell advertisers on an environment and a brand name," said Brian Bedol, the chief executive of the Classic Sports Network, who recently sold his channel featuring vintage sports footage to ESPN for \$175 million.

But even ESPN knows it cannot ignore the almost primal appeal of local games in local markets. Disney controls two of the six teams in Southern California, the Angels and the Ducks, and when Fox's TV rights to both teams expire in a couple of years, some media executives expect Disney to use the teams as the foundation for the first local ESPN network.

"I think it's a lot easier to take the ESPN brand name and get into local sports than it is to take a bunch of regional stations and build a national network," Mr. Bedol said.

Regardless of whether Fox succeeds against ESPN, some observers doubt that Mr. Murdoch will change the way Americans watch sports. As Mr. Olbermann, the former ESPN commentator, puts it, "There is a lot less difference between 'Fox Sports News' and ESPN's 'SportsCenter' than either company would like you to think."

The Nation
On Camp
No Look

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The Nation

On Campaign Finance, No Looking Inward

By LESLIE WAYNE

WASHINGTON
IN a single week, the focus on campaign finance has shifted from highly-charged Senate hearings that laid bare legally and ethically questionable practices to a more measured debate — in committee and on the Senate floor — about how to fix the laws governing the financing of political campaigns.

This shift, sudden and dramatic, was accompanied by statements of lofty motives. The two heads of the Senate committee investigating campaign finance said they wanted to move away from partisan hickering and toward a constructive policy debate that "will hopefully offer to other members of the Senate and the public the benefit of these hearings." And the Majority Leader, Trent Lott, in a surprise move, brought to the floor a campaign reform measure sponsored by Senators John McCain, Republican of Arizona, and Russell D. Feingold, a Wisconsin Democrat.

But obscured in this rush to moderation were motivations that were less high-minded. The White House was happy to see Vice President Al Gore's fundraising enthusiasms moved to the hack burner. And the Senate's perspective was just as self-interested: the hearings had been headed straight for the Senators themselves.

By changing course, the Senators effectively dropped witnesses who would have exposed campaign finance abuses by members of Congress — including some members of the Senate committee — a prospect that the committee decided was just too sensitive to pursue, committee members said.

"For the first time, it looked like the focus would be much more on ourselves," said Senator Susan Collins, a Maine Republican. "It would introduce a certain awkwardness to the hearings. It is easier for us to sit in judgment of another branch of government, the executive branch, than to sit in judgment of ourselves."

In the days and weeks ahead, the committee had been scheduled to look at the way in which nonprofit organizations, on the right and the left, had been used to get money to Congressional races with expensive advertising campaigns conducted outside the reach of Fed-

eral campaign finance laws. In addition, the committee had planned to look at how groups ranging from the A.F.L.-C.I.O. to the Christian Coalition raised and spent money on behalf of Congressional candidates.

The committee has said it may take up these issues again, but in a way that will not identify any members of Congress. Many of the nonprofit groups had refused to comply, on grounds of privacy, with Senate subpoenas requesting internal documents — documents that committee investigators felt were necessary to their case. But it is doubtful now that the committee will engage in the court battle needed to enforce compliance.

A Plan for Giving

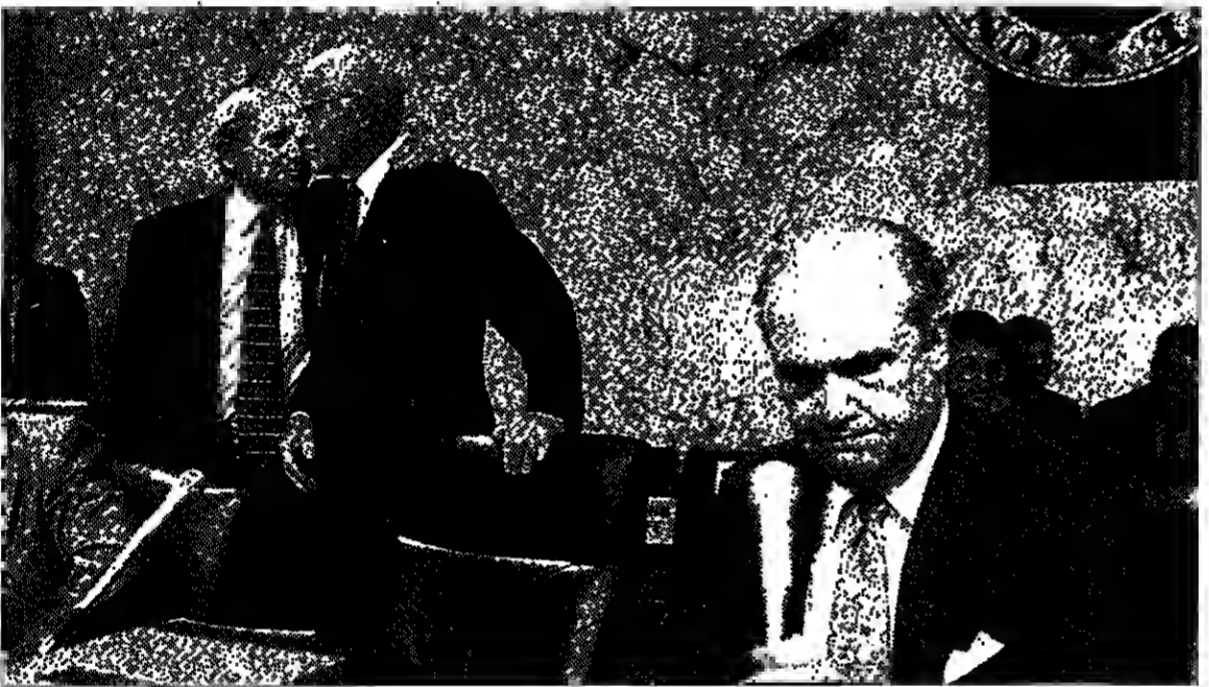
The committee's decision to switch course came just as the Democrats had been scheduled to present information about Triad Consulting Services, a company that devised an intricate but seemingly legal scheme that allowed conservative donors to support Republican candidates in excess of Federal limits on Congressional campaign donations by giving money to political action committees and nonprofit groups that supported individual candidates or ran ads that benefited them.

The tale of Triad was particularly sensitive to the committee since a Republican committee member, Senator Don Nickles of Oklahoma, appeared in Triad promotional ads shown to potential donors. Another Republican, Sam Brownback of Kansas, benefited from Triad ads and from a plan that allowed donors, including his in-laws, to give him amounts exceeding Federal limits under a plan whose legality is uncertain.

This change of heart, of course, has got some campaign finance reformists fuming.

"Not looking at Congress is a very strange absence that is utterly peculiar," said Charles Lewis, executive director of the Center for Public Integrity, a nonprofit research group. "I think anyone watching the hearings has to scratch their head."

However, at least one advocate for campaign finance changes applauded the switch. "I'm delighted," said Thomas Mamm, a Congressional scholar at the Brookings Institution who testified before the committee last week. "It's a lot more constructive to look at how to fix the system than in finding additional cases of campaign finance wrongdoing for the newspapers to write about."



Senators Carl Levin and John Glenn, at left, and the committee chairman, Fred Thompson, at the hearings.



In the charity game, Ted Turner (shown with Jane Fonda) goes to bat for other causes more than for Atlanta.

Looking Beyond Atlanta

Turner's Charity Blind Spot

By KEVIN SACK

ATLANTA
TED TURNER's charity often hasn't begun at home. For all of his philanthropy, crowned by his \$1 billion pledge to the United Nations last weekend, relatively little of his largess has landed in Atlanta, where he lives and where his companies and sports teams are based.

There are no buildings here named for Mr. Turner other than Turner Field, the new Atlanta Braves baseball stadium now known simply as The Ted. He does not sit on boards of major civic or cultural groups.

Of the \$14 million given by the Turner Foundation to 426 organizations this year, less than a fifth — \$2.7 million — went to 65 groups in Atlanta, most of it in gifts of \$25,000 to \$40,000. While Mr. Turner has given \$25 million each to the McCallie School in Chattanooga and Brown University, which he attended, and to The Citadel, which his sons attended, he has not made major gifts to any Atlanta-based college.

When the Atlanta Olympic committee asked Mr. Turner to pledge \$1 million for construction of Centennial Olympic Park, a 21-acre tract that is now the front yard of CNN Center, Mr. Turner demurred. Turner Broadcasting eventually gave \$150,000 toward construction of the \$62 million park. By contrast, the Robert W. Woodruff Foundation, Atlanta's largest philanthropy, gave more than \$30 million, and several local companies gave multimillion dollar grants.

"They're just not as involved in local issues as the other major headquarters companies here," said Sam A. Williams, head of the Chamber of Commerce. "Ted's personal interest is more international. As a corporation, I'd like to see them more involved in Atlanta."

Mr. Turner's aides say his foundation gives mainly to local groups in six states where he owns property — for environmental protection, youth projects and the like. They also note that Turner Broadcasting and the sports teams do many charitable works in Atlanta.

But they acknowledge that Mr. Turner, as befits his personality and the worldwide reach of his Cable News Network, is primarily concerned with issues on a global scale. "He sees the importance and loves, in fact, the

work that local groups are doing," said Peter Robinson, the Turner Foundation's executive director. "But he absolutely feels that there needs to be someplace where democracy can be exercised for global issues."

Mr. Turner and Atlanta have always had something of an awkward relationship. He is arguably the city's best-known and wealthiest citizen. But he has never been included in, nor sought inclusion in, the small club of business elites who quietly guide the city's life.

"I don't think Atlanta's ever been totally comfortable with Ted Turner," said Dana F. White, urban studies professor at Emory University. "His style is not the kind of restrained elegance that one would expect from a Robert Woodruff or an Ivan Allen" — respectively, the late Coca-Cola magnate and an ex-mayor.

Atlantans, of course, don't doubt the altruism of a man who just pledged away \$1 billion. They also realize that Mr. Turner has contributed to the city in other ways — by making it a media capital, by employing more than 7,000 people, by anchoring a hard-to-develop corner of downtown with CNN Center, a commercial complex, and by owning three of the city's four sports franchises — the Braves, the Hawks, and a new hockey team.

Olympic Windfall

But some do wonder why Mr. Turner is so fixated on global causes when there are so many needs in his own neighborhood. Atlanta ranks fifth among major American cities in the percentage of people living in poverty.

Some Atlanta leaders were particularly miffed that Mr. Turner did not give more to build the Olympic park, which presumably has enhanced the value of CNN Center, where Mr. Turner shares an apartment with his wife, Jane Fonda. The 1996 Olympics also left Mr. Turner with a new stadium for the Braves; the team paid only \$95 million to convert the stadium for baseball.

"A call was made to get him to put in a lot of money and it just wasn't on his radar scope," said A.D. Franzer, former chief operating officer of the Atlanta Olympic committee. "I wish he had been able to do more."

Eric R. Guthey, an assistant professor at the University of Michigan who is writing a book on Mr. Turner, said Mr. Turner's personality explains his lack of focus on Atlanta. "He has a heroic self-conception," he said.

Crime Keeps On Falling, but Prisons Keep On Filling

Continued From Page 1

surge even as crime rates around the nation have fallen, but at their heart is an often misunderstood truth, said Franklin Zimmerman, director of the Earl Warren Legal Institute at the University of California at Berkeley.

"The change in the number of inmates tells us more about our feelings about crime and criminals" and about changes in sentencing laws than it does about crime rates.

Sometimes the disparities in rates of imprisonment have no more apparent explanation.

North Dakota and South Dakota, for instance, are similar in their social, economic and racial makeup and have similar crime rates. But while North Dakota has a prison

incarceration rate of only 90 per 100,000 people, South Dakota imprisons 279 per 100,000.

Parole? No.

The prison population also continues to grow because sentences have increased for many crimes and parole boards have also become much more sensitive to the public's demand for harsher treatment of criminals. As a result, release rates of those prisoners eligible for parole have declined to 31.2 percent in 1995 from 37 percent in 1990, and inmates therefore are spending more of their sentences behind bars, Mr. Beck said.

Another key factor is that drug arrests are not counted in the Federal Bureau of Investigation's annual crime report. It includes

crimes from murder to burglary, but not drug offenses, because they are not considered to have victims or likely to be reported to the police.

While other crimes have been declining, Mr. Beck said, the number of those arrested for drug offenses jumped 27 percent between 1990 and 1995. In fact, Mr. Blumstein said, criminals sentenced for drug offenses account for about half the growth in the prison population over the last 15 years.

John DiIulio Jr., a professor of politics and public affairs at Princeton University, said that in the past he believed most of those sentenced for drug offenses had also committed other crimes, often violent crimes, but new research he has conducted in New York State suggests that at least 25 percent of new inmates now are "drug-only offend-

ers," people who have never been charged with any other type of crime.

"I think what we are seeing is an increase in drug-only offenders, and this is unfortunate," Mr. DiIulio said.

Paying the Bills

California, with the largest number of prisoners, is facing the highest challenge. In the last 20 years, California has built 21 new prisons but added only one university to what was once hailed as the world's best public university system.

And while the share of the state budget going to the university system has fallen to 8 percent from 12.5 percent in 1990, the proportion for corrections has risen to 9.4 percent, up 4.5 percent, an amount that educators

point out is identical to the loss in their funds.

In the meantime, California's universities have had to lay off 10,000 employees, many of them professors, while in the same period the number of state prison guards has increased by 10,000.

"This is a crisis," said Barry Munitz, the chancellor of the California State University system. "And the reason it is a crisis is that in California we capped government revenue with Prop 13, so every decision about spending is a tradeoff."

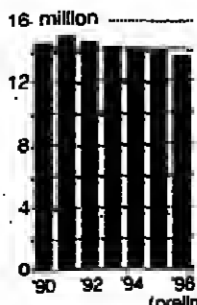
"To me, you pay now for college, or you pay dramatically more later for prisons," for people who don't get an education and wind up committing crimes, said Mr. Munitz.

"The state sends us \$6,000 per student," he pointed out, "but it pays \$34,000 a year for a prison inmate."

The Inmate Population Grows, as Crime Recedes

Serious crime is down...

Includes reported murder, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary and larceny.



...but the number of prison inmates is growing.

Federal and State prison inmates

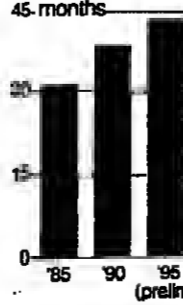


Some reasons are longer sentences, a decrease in release rates and an increase in reincarcerations.

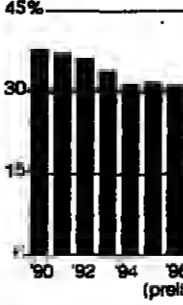
Jail inmates (awaiting trial or sentenced to one year or less)



Average minimum time to be served by new prison inmates



Release rate per 100 state prisoners

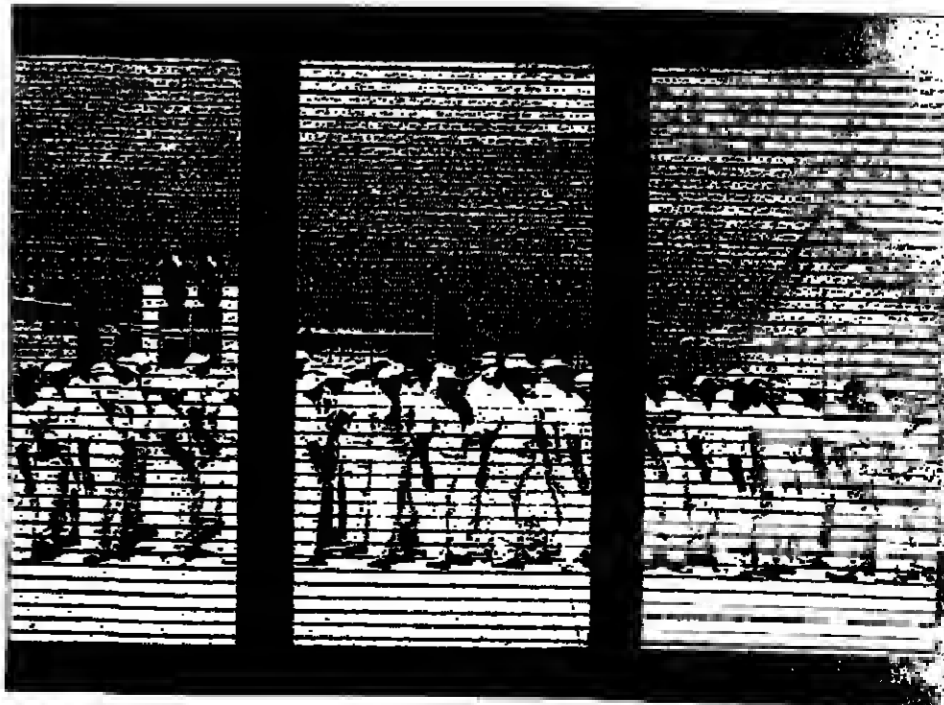


Percent of new prison inmates with prior terms (includes parole and probation violations)



Sources: Federal Bureau of Investigation; Bureau of Justice Statistics

The New York Times



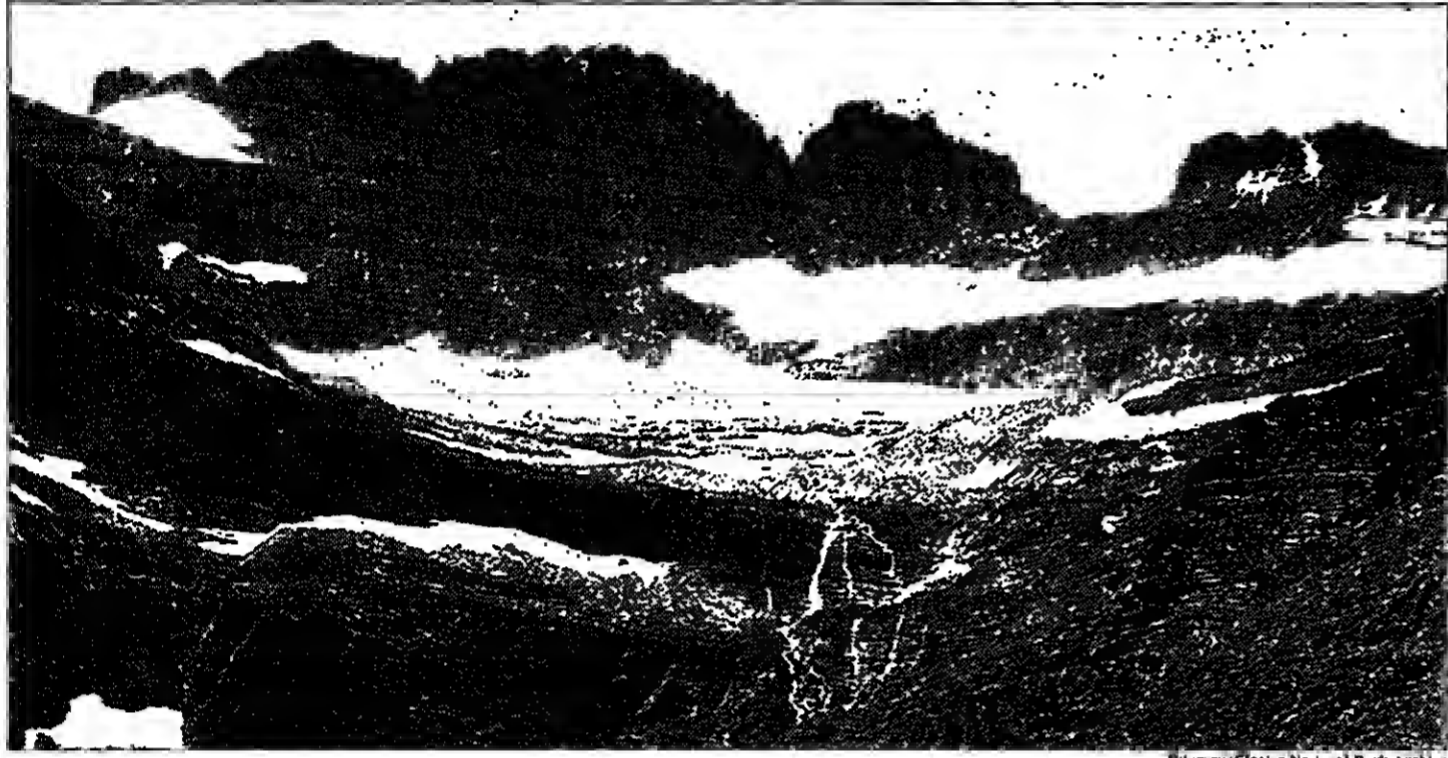
In Beville, Tex., a former naval station is now prison space.

Greg Smith/Staff

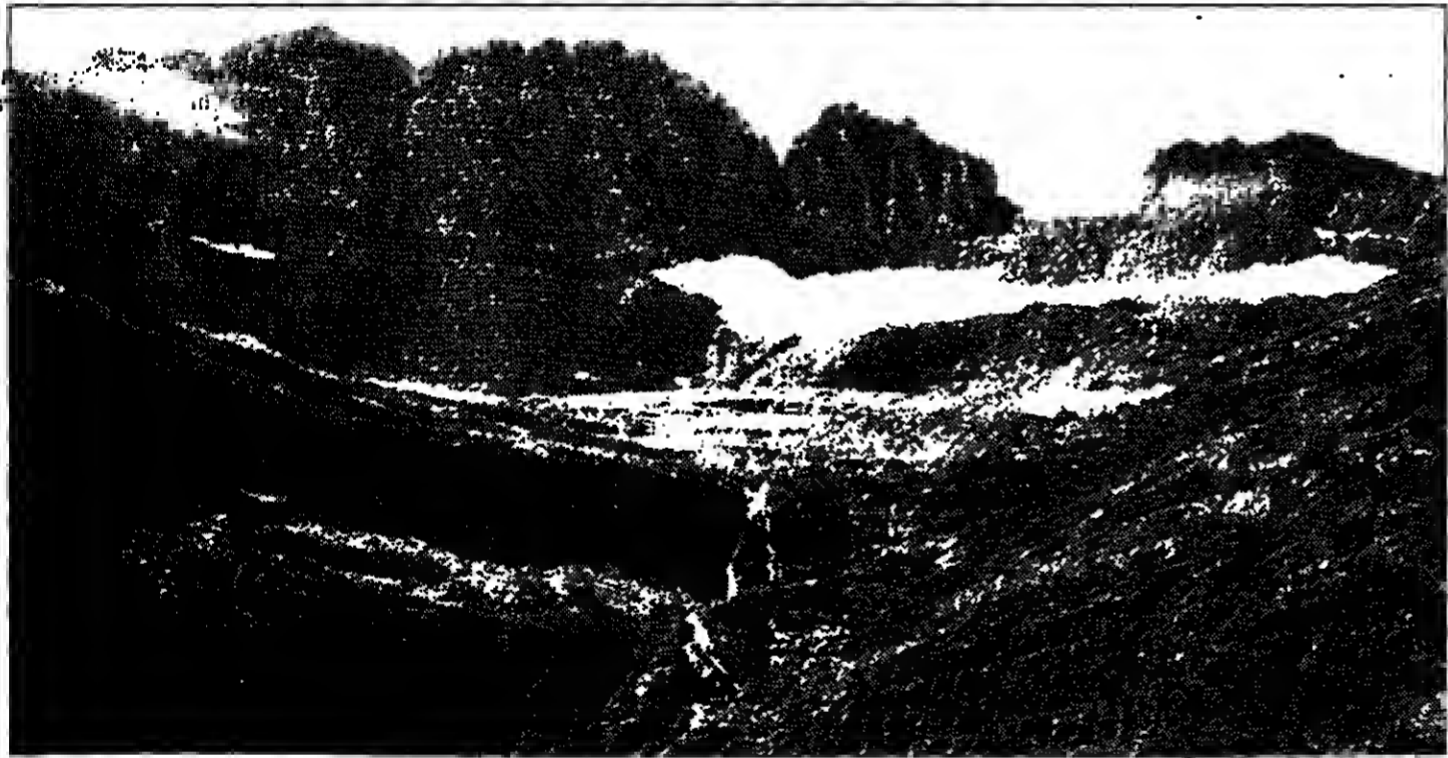
Ideas & Trends



1910 The Grinnell Glacier in Glacier National Park, where Al Gore recently discussed global warming, before the melting.



1931 Photographed from the same vantage point 21 years later, a clearly smaller glacier.



1997 The glacier this year; having receded 3,100 feet in a century, it is expected to disappear within 30 years.

Struggling to Scare A Contented World

By ANDREW C. REVKIN

PRESIDENT CLINTON has long been seen as an instinctive politician, one with a talent for sensing a public yearning and turning it to political advantage. So why, when Americans are blithely pumping record amounts of gasoline into their Blazers, Jeeps, and not-so-mini-vans, is he preparing to campaign to cut the nation's use of fuel?

Mr. Clinton says his goal is to reduce the threat in coming decades of droughts, coastal floods, and famine from global warming — a warning of the atmosphere caused by rising concentrations of gases, especially carbon dioxide, released when fuels and forests are burned. He plans to play host at a climate conference at Georgetown University next week to publicize the issue, and he invited dozens of television weather forecasters to meet with him and Vice President Al Gore at the White House Wednesday, also to discuss global warming.

Around Washington, where hot, sticky summers are commonplace, those seeking a political explanation for everything say that global warming simply is a safe have for a second-term President who is eager to divert attention from more uncomfortable subjects, like campaign financing or his personal life.

But scientists and officials involved in the intensifying international debate on how to deal with global warming say it has taken

gasoline and oil relatively cheap, and with most of the more obvious environmental problems either solved or being attacked.

Mr. Clinton had a much easier sell in his last big environmental policy move — toughening standards for two familiar pollutants, soot and smog. Soot and smog are a visible blight that kills old people and asthmatic children.

Bubbles in Beer

But carbon dioxide is far harder to paint as a villain. It is, after all, the same invisible stuff that makes the bubbles in beer. And, unlike smog or water pollution — where solid evidence has been plain for all to see — global warming is a looming, complicated problem that never quite seems to arrive. In other words, a nightmare for a politician.

There will never be a day when newspaper headlines proclaim "Earth Warms — Floods, Famine Erupt," climate experts say. Even the particularly nasty storms, floods, and droughts of recent years, although consistent with the theory, can never be directly ascribed to human meddling with the atmosphere. Indeed, some recent work suggests that variations in the sun's brightness could account for some warming.

Mr. Clinton will have to overcome inertia that is being fed by industry. Despite a few recent converts, like British Petroleum, most industries that either produce fossil fuels or rely on them still contend that the science is uncertain and are lobbying for more research before action is taken to cut greenhouse pollution.

Seth Dunn, a climate and energy analyst at the Worldwatch Institute, a private environmental group, said that a key to any initiative this fall will be to show the economic sense of using fuels sparingly and developing new sources of energy that do not add to the atmosphere's greenhouse burden. An enormous market for such technologies is already building overseas, and could easily spread here as well, he said.

One of Mr. Clinton's soldiers in his environmental campaign is Mr. Gore; the prospect of a hothouse planet was a central theme of his best-selling book, "Earth in the Balance" (Houghton Mifflin, 1992). Another is Timothy E. Wirth, Undersecretary of State for Global Affairs. Mr. Wirth is a veteran of the communications wars over global warming. As a Senator, he staged one of the first Congressional hearings on the subject during the scorching summer of 1988.

To get the point across at the time, staffers called the National Weather Service to be sure the hearing date would be a hot one. "We had it on that day, and opened all the windows," Mr. Wirth recalled. The greenhouse effect became big news. This time, he said, sweaty hearings won't be enough. He said the Clinton Administration is planning to invoke the fate of future generations, just as he did to spur proposed solutions to the budget deficit.

To prepare for his improbable climate campaign, Mr. Clinton has been boning up both on the science, and on ways to explain it.

Clinton wants action against global warming. But in flush times, what's a little CO₂ between friends?

the United States far too long to put the issue front and center, particularly because this country is the biggest source of heat-trapping gases, and because the spread of American-style consumerism to developing nations is likely to create the biggest source of the gases in the next century.

A strong consensus has built among scientists that global warming, although not a certainty, is a sufficiently serious threat to justify taking some action. Without concrete action by the United States, climate policy experts say, the rest of the world — which is eager to replicate America's high-revving, energy-hungry economy — will be unlikely to conserve coal or oil for the sake of the shared atmosphere.

President Clinton's decision to tackle the issue now, some of these experts say, was largely prompted by the need to build public support before he fulfills a pledge to commit the United States to firm limits on future greenhouse emissions. Specifics are expected to be announced by the White House next month and made final at an international climate meeting in Kyoto, Japan, in December.

That pledge came after Mr. Clinton became the focus of increasingly harsh criticism from countries like Britain and Germany, which have pushed ahead with environmental programs to cut their output of carbon dioxide.

But finding ways to convince the American public of the seriousness of the climate threat will be no mean feat. This is particularly true with the nation feeling flush, with

You're Not Bad. Just Sick.

Continued From Page 1

ing. "If they do that two or more times a year, it is considered road rage — a mental disorder," he said.

Dr. Nerenberg, who recently testified at Congressional hearings on highway safety, said his research showed that more than half of Americans suffer from road rage disorder at one time or another.

Emerging Candidates

Another candidate for certification as a mental illness is pre-menstrual dysphoric disorder, which afflicts some women as a severe form of pre-menstrual stress and "cripples them emotionally," according to a study published last week in the Journal of the American Medical Association. The study, which said sufferers can be significantly aided by taking an antidepressant, was financed by Pfizer Inc., which makes the antidepressant Zoloft.

Meanwhile, other therapists have recently made well-publicized claims that attention-deficit disorder, once primarily diagnosed in children, has begun showing up in large numbers of adult patients.

Some disorders lose political support and disappear as cultural forces clash with therapeutic claims; homosexuality, for example, was listed as a mental disorder until 1980. Another example is self-defeating personality disorder, which used to be most often diagnosed in women. Among its symptoms in the previous edition of the D.S.M.: choosing "people and situations that lead to disap-

pointment." It was dropped when the latest D.S.M. appeared in 1994.

Still, new hopefuls surface regularly. Among them is jury-duty disorder, defined last year by the Bulletin of the Academy of Psychiatry and the Law as a psychiatric disease reported by people who have suffered sexual problems, heart palpitations, phobic reaction, depression and anorexia following stressful jury duty.

And foreign disorders may be coming our way, Mr. Kutchins suggests. Last year, for example, the British Medical Journal published a study detailing lottery stress disorder, characterized by a "delusional belief" that a ticket is a winner and a sharp "deflation of mood" when it isn't.

The National Institute of Mental Health estimates that one-third of Americans suffer from a clinical mental disorder in any given year and that more than half will have one during their lifetime. Defenders of current mental-health policy say accepting that removes the stigma from seeking treatment.

Mr. Kutchins, however, said the price was high. "If full parity comes about and only half of the people who would qualify for a D.S.M. disorder seek professional treatment," he said, "the tab has been estimated at about \$75 billion a year."

Dr. Szasz says the D.S.M. has ingeniously made itself indispensable and probably indestructible. "The diagnosis in the D.S.M. is absolutely essential, because all mental health care and third-party insurance payment depends on what code you put down," he said. "It's completely impossible to get off this tiger."

Dissociative Fugue and Other Ailments

FEELING a tad testy when some idiot roars into your rearview mirror to tailgate an inch from your bumper? You might not get much sympathy from your shrink, because road rage isn't yet listed in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders.

But give it time. After all, plenty of other disorders have made the grade. The American Psychiatric Association, which puts out the manual, claims that about half the population has (or will get) one or another of the more than 300 listed illnesses. Maybe it's best to try to feel the tailgater's pain, since your tormentor might not be rude, but suffering from one of the certified disorders below.

JOE SHARKEY

Antisocial personality disorder: Among the symptoms: "Disregard for and violation of the rights of others.... Impulsivity or failure to plan ahead."

Narcissistic personality disorder: "A grandiose sense of self-importance.... Believes that he or she is 'special' and unique and can only be understood by, or associate with, other special or high-status people.... A sense of entitlement, i.e. unreasonable expectations of especially favorable treatment.... Takes advantage of others.... Shows arrogant, haughty behaviors or attitudes."



Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder: "Fails to give close attention to details or makes careless mistakes.... Has difficulty sustaining attention in tasks or play activities.... Does not follow through on instructions.... Fidgets with hands or feet or squirms in seat.... Often acts as if 'driven by a motor.'"

Dissociative fugue: An overwhelming urge for "sudden, unexpected travel away from home or one's customary place of

work."

Or consider "substance-related disorders" like these:

Caffeine intoxication, which can lead to Caffeine-induced anxiety disorder or Substance-induced sleep disorder.

Nicotine dependence, the treatment of which can unfortunately lead to Nicotine withdrawal disorder.



Or perhaps the menacing Road Warrior is suffering from a newer disorder that the manual hasn't yet codified but recommends "clinical attention" to, pending further study. These are examples:

Occupational problem: "Job dissatisfaction and uncertainty about career choices."

Acculturation problem: "Problem involving adjustment to a different culture, (e.g., following migration)."

Phase of life problem: "Examples include problems associated with entering school... starting a new career... divorce and retirement."

Religious or spiritual problem: "Loss or questioning of faith.... Questioning of spiritual values."

Malingering: "Intentional production of false or grossly exaggerated physical or psychological symptoms, motivated by external incentives such as avoiding military duty, avoiding work, obtaining financial compensation." This disorder is sometimes characterized by "lack of cooperation... in complying with the prescribed treatment regimen... the presence of Antisocial Personality Disorder." (See above.)

ECONOMY

Mr. Rubin Makes a Fix-It Trip to a Tumultuous Asia

Treasury Secretary Robert E. Rubin spent the last 10 days in Asia. In Hong Kong, he wrestled with the problems of Southeast Asia's currency crisis, first at meetings of the finance ministers of the world's leading industrial nations, and then at the annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

terrorists, but instead by wild-eyed bond traders, aided by a cabal of currency traders who, to add a bit of verisimilitude, have just flattened the Malaysian economy.

They demand that Messrs. Rubin, Summers and Greenspan spill their plans for short-term interest rates and the direction of the dollar. As the midair standoff drags on, markets quiver from Bangkok to Berlin. A worldwide recession bangs in the balance.

Well, maybe not. Up here on the real Air Force 86971, everyone is complaining about the cheese on the nachos and the pitiful flying range of the plane, which must refuel three times between Washington and Hong Kong. But that allows time for Mr. Rubin to reflect on the fact that this is his first trip to the world's most populous country — either in his old life as an investment banker, or in the five years he has served President Clinton.

"When I was at Goldman," he says, referring to his 26 years at Goldman, Sachs & Company, "there weren't enough commercial transactions in China to even justify a trip. It was all Tokyo, and at the end a little Hong Kong." The world looks very different today. Japan can't seem to dig itself out of its hole. And the boom in Southeast Asia has hit a brick wall, with the currency crisis that started in Thailand spreading like jungle thach.

So Mr. Rubin's tour is now an

urgent repair mission. He wants to use the annual meeting of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund to make sure countries that are opening their financial markets don't backslide. And in Beijing, he must pave the way for President Jiang Zemin's state visit to Washington next month, the first by a Chinese leader in a dozen years.

Mr. Rubin readily acknowledges that the Administration's interactions with China over the last five years are nothing to crow about. "We can properly be faulted," he says, "for vastly underinvesting in our relationships with Chinese officials up and down the line." It's no surprise, he adds, that "we keep having such a hard time understanding each other."

Such candor in an Administration that often seems to believe its own spin is the key to Mr. Rubin's remarkably good press. Having a few hundred million dollars in the bank gives him, as one Cabinet colleague noted recently, "the security to say exactly what he thinks." He also seems to speak a common language with Mr. Greenspan, who steers clear of reporters on the 20-hour trip as assiduously as Mr. Rubin seeks them out.

As the plane circles halfway around the world, Mr. Rubin buddies with his staff to discuss how to react if anti-Americanism flares in Hong Kong. The Prime Minister of Malaysia, Mahathir Mohamad, will be there, contending anew that American speculators victimized his country by borrowing his currency and using it to drive down his stock market.

Others don't see an American conspiracy in all this, but resent the fact that the United States, while not a major contributor to the \$20 billion IMF bailout of Thailand, nonetheless insisted that the Thais endure a strict, Mexico-style austerity plan.

The Japanese, some Treasury officials warn, may try to exploit those emotions to regain influence they have lost during their own recession and banking crisis.

This quiet tug-of-war is a constant subtext of relations in the Pacific — and trade deficits, interest rates and direct investment are all weapons in the struggle.

"Hoo, boy," Mr. Rubin says. "This could be a circus."



IN BEIJING: The Treasury Secretary speaks at the People's University.

Rubin, he is backpedaling fast, offering assurances that his country — whose currency hit a 26-year-low after Mr. Mahathir's Saturday speech — is not about to ban currency trading.

Mr. Rubin tried to be sympathetic; after all, he has been trotted out more than once to clean up messes after President Clinton's ill-considered comments on currencies.

"I told him," he said later, "that the situation is not completely unfamiliar to me."

Sept. 24: Touring the Heartland

Like most visitors to Xi'an, Mr. Rubin tours China's most astounding archeological treasure: the army of thousands of life-size figures that protect the graves of the Chinese emperors.

But he traveled to Xi'an for reasons that have little to do with tourism. The ancient capital is on the edge of central China, not the go-go coast. Xi'an is more staid than Shanghai or Guangzhou, but it's learning.

Sept. 25: Skepticism in Beijing

In 1989, during the Tiananmen Square protests, People's University in Beijing was a hotbed of anti-Government activity. But today, the students are questioning not the legitimacy of their Government, but the global push — led by the United States — to open China's markets.

After listening to a speech by Mr. Rubin, the students — presumably selected by the university — ask what he would do about shrinking the state-owned enterprises, and he responds by talking about the need for "a basic safety net," and a program to figure out how workers can "relocate themselves in the economy."

"We have the same problems," Mr. Rubin notes. "But it is the wrong answer to resist change, because you will simply stagnate."

The students are intrigued, but not convinced. "My professor told me that in Mexico there was a lot of suffering a few years ago," says Ye Bihua, a 20-year-old economics major, sounding a lot like critics of the Mexican bailout in the United States. "And I'm afraid that if we let foreign banks come to China too soon, it will cause even more troubles, like Mexico had."

Mr. Rubin ends the day by meeting Zhu Rongji, China's recently elevated economic czar, in the Great Hall of the People. Gently, he raises the subject of a big pending order for Boeing jets. Mr. Zhu laughs and tells the Treasury Secretary that he was a lot more diplomatic than Jacques Chirac, the French President, who arrived here recently insisting that China buy 100 Airbus jets.

So what about those Boeings? Mr. Rubin prodded. Mr. Zhu would only hint that another diplomatically convenient order was on the way.

Sept. 26: A Jovial President

The big day: Mr. Rubin's limousine zips through the gates of the guarded compound where emperors once frolicked, where Mao Zedong ordered the construction of the giant state factories — and where Jiang Zemin is now trying to turn an economy around.

Mr. Jiang is waiting for Mr. Rubin in the doorway of the Yingting, the ornate, 300-year-old guest house where foreign dignitaries are received. "The Treasury Department is always the most important in any country," Mr. Jiang says jovially. "Meeting a Treasury Secretary makes you think you will become rich."

What struck American participants in the meeting was that Mr. Jiang was so casual, even telling self-deprecating jokes about how history may judge his move to freer markets.

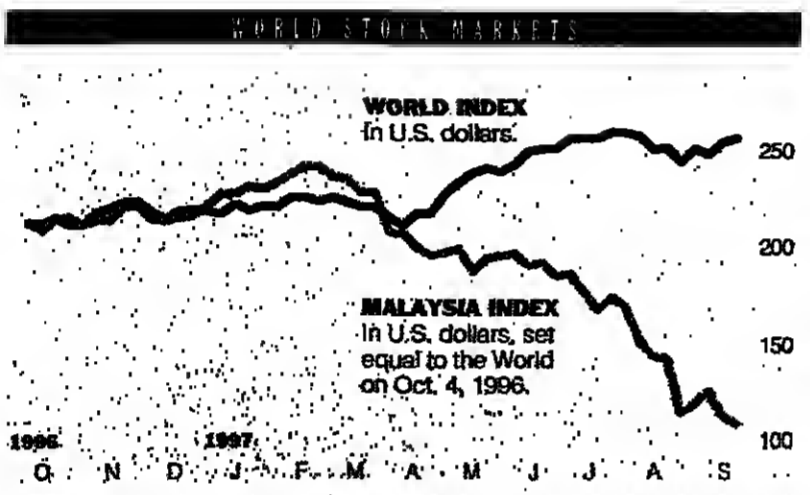
"He was often quite philosophical," Mr. Rubin said later, "and he clearly had a plan."

And then the Treasury Secretary's motorcade slipped out of the compound, across Tiananmen Square, where crowds watched the sunset lowering of the Chinese flag, and Mr. Rubin began the long trip back to the Washington fray.

Sept. 19: 'This Could Be a Circus'

When Hollywood makes the inevitable sequel to "Air Force One," maybe the producers should forget about the President. Instead, they can title it "Air Force 86971," for the tail number on the creaky, Eisenhower-era plane taking three of the most powerful policy setters in the global economy to meet their Asian counterparts: Treasury Secretary Robert E. Rubin, his wise-cracking deputy Lawrence H. Summers and the Sphinx-like Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve.

O.K., a meeting of finance ministers may not sound like the makings of a box-office bonanza, but imagine the story line: The plane is not seized by a bunch of crazed nuclear



Prepared by Goldman, Sachs & Co. using data derived from the Financial Times/Standard & Poor's Actuaries World Indices, a measure of stock market performance. The FT indices are compiled jointly by The Financial Times Limited, Goldman, Sachs & Co. and Standard & Poor's, in conjunction with the Institute of Actuaries and Faculty of Actuaries.

Table with columns: Country, Index, % Chg., Rank, YTD, YTD Dividend Yield, Index, % Chg., YTD. Lists various countries like Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Britain, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Philippines, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, and United States.

Table with columns: Composite Indices, Index, % Chg., Rank, YTD, YTD Dividend Yield, Index, % Chg., YTD. Lists Europe, Pacific Basin, Europe/Pacific, and World.

Source: Goldman, Sachs & Co. Exchange rates as of Friday's London close. © 1996 The Financial Times Ltd., Goldman, Sachs & Co. and Standard & Poor's.

Table with columns: Exchange rate, Friday, Friday, Last Week, Year Ago. Lists Japanese yen to the U.S. dollar, German marks to the U.S. dollar, Canadian dollars to the U.S. dollar, and U.S. dollars to the British pound.

Source: Bloomberg Financial Markets; exchange rates as of Friday's New York close.

Sept. 22-26: Jittery About Inflation, Markets Rebound on Friday on News of Slower Growth

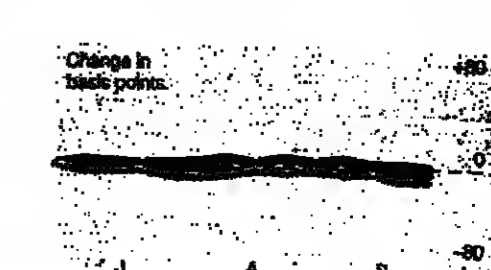
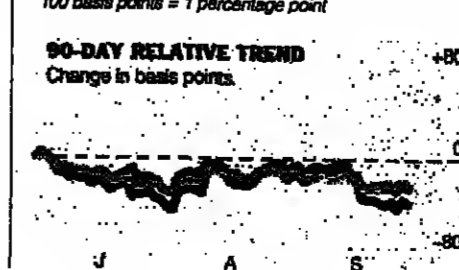
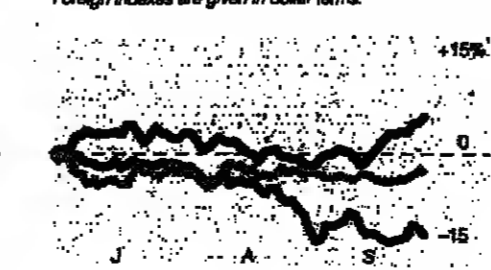
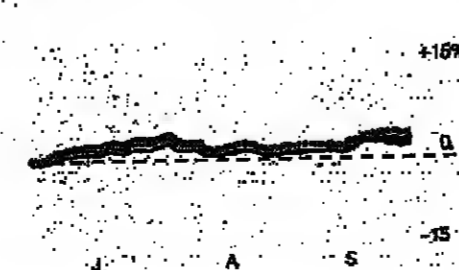
Table with columns: Domestic Equities, Broad market, S. & P. 500 index, Blue chips, Dow 30 industrials, Small capitalization, Russell 2000 index. Shows various market indices and their performance.

Table with columns: Domestic Bonds, Treasuries, Municipal, Corporate, Merrill Lynch Master Index. Shows bond market performance.

Table with columns: Around the World, European stocks, Asian stocks, Gold, New York cash price. Shows international market performance.

Table with columns: Yields, Bonds, Long bonds, 30-year Treasuries, Notes, 2-year Treasuries, Municipals, Bond Buyer index. Shows bond yields and prices.

Table with columns: Other Investments, Money market funds, Taxable average funds, Bank C.D.'s, 1-year small savers, Stocks, S. & P. 500 dividend yield. Shows other investment performance.



90-DAY RELATIVE TREND Change in basis points. Sources: Bank Rate Monitor; Bloomberg Financial Markets; The Bond Buyer; Datastream; Goldman, Sachs; IBC's Money Fund Report; Merrill Lynch; Standard & Poor's; Ryan Labs

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Campaign Reform Picks Up Speed

From opposite ends of the Capitol, Trent Lott and Newt Gingrich have been assuring each other that campaign finance reform would never pass this year. That the two Republican leaders of Congress felt it necessary to say so was the surest sign that the opposite was true. In fact it suddenly became obvious last week that legislation banning open-ended donations to parties by rich individuals, corporations and labor unions already commands majority support in both the Senate and the House. Mr. Gingrich and Mr. Lott, knowing they cannot defeat the reform legislation on the floor, must now focus on watering it down or bottling it up.

In trying to block the overhaul of a corrupt system, these two men are simply giving expression to the institutional demands of the Republican Party, which harvested even more money from special interests in the last election than the Democrats. Republicans are right to assert that the excesses committed by President Clinton and his party, including the collection of foreign money and peddling White House access to questionable characters, went far beyond what the Republicans did when they controlled the Presidency. But access-for-dollars is a bipartisan game in Congress. When lawmakers got to work in the last few years on deregulating the telecommunications industry or revising regulations on the environment and the securities industry, millions of dollars from broadcasters, oil and gas businesses and banks and brokerage houses flooded Capitol Hill to distort the process.

The public needs to be alert to the game playing under way right now. Since both parties have been feeding at the money trough, it is important that Democrats who have long championed reform, knowing that it would not pass, not load the bill with disingenuous amendments designed to repel crucial Republican votes. As for Mr. Lott, he no doubt thought he could catch McCain-Feingold supporters off guard by abruptly moving on Thursday evening

to schedule the beginning of the debate for Friday morning. But Senators John McCain and Russell Feingold can now seize the opportunity the majority leader has presented them.

In the next two weeks, the Senate debate should build support for their bill to 60, the magic number needed to close off a threatened filibuster. Republicans leaning toward reform must also stand firm in opposing such poison-pill amendments as a bill requiring all union members to approve the use of their dues for political purposes. They should all beware any attempts to pass diversionary measures like greater disclosure but no other changes in the status quo.

The improving chance of legislation passing in the Senate was what stirred Mr. Gingrich to suddenly announce that reform was dead. His worst nightmare is a repetition of what happened in 1995, when the Senate passed lobbying disclosure and a ban on gifts and created an irresistible momentum in the House in spite of the Speaker's best efforts to scuttle that change. A most welcome step occurred last week when the primary sponsors of reform, Representatives Christopher Shays, a Connecticut Republican, and Martin Meehan, a Massachusetts Democrat, said they would move to pass the McCain-Feingold bill if it came over from the Senate in its current form.

In years ahead, Mr. Gingrich's sudden attempt to torpedo McCain-Feingold could be seen as a disastrous political mistake. The Speaker is beleaguered because of his earlier ethical difficulties. He is surrounded by ambitious people who want to succeed him. By working to kill off the first real chance for electoral reform in a generation, he could be greasing the skids to his own retirement. In any event, it is time for the public, the White House and reform-minded members of Congress to direct at Mr. Gingrich and the House the kind of pressure that made Mr. Lott clear the calendar for reform, even if his heart is not in it.

A Chance for Algerian Peace

For the first time in years, there is a small but significant opening for peace in Algeria. If successfully exploited, it could eventually bring an end to the horrific violence that has been tearing that country apart since 1992 and has so far cost 60,000 lives. But this precious opportunity will likely be lost unless France, which provides Algeria's military-backed Government with diplomatic support in Europe and \$1 billion a year in subsidized loans, uses its leverage to insist on a serious Government effort to negotiate a compromise peace.

The opportunity comes with the announcement that the armed wing of Algeria's main Muslim political party, the Islamic Salvation Front, will halt all terrorist attacks as of Tuesday. That will not bring an immediate end to the violence, since armed backers of the Salvation Front are responsible for only a small share of terrorist incidents. Algeria's main terrorist organization, the Armed Islamic Group, has not joined the cease-fire. But the Salvation Front's truce is significant because it was the Algerian Army's intervention to prevent a Front victory in elections five years ago that ignited the conflict. A compromise solution returning the Front to peaceful political life would deprive the Armed Islamic Group of its most potent cause.

Significantly, the Salvation Front's cease-fire announcement was broadcast on Government television and radio stations and favorably commented on in the pro-Government press. Usually, these outlets give only negative coverage of the Front. But the cease-fire is a direct result of the Government's decision in July to release Abassi Madani, a Front leader and relative moderate, from prison. That conciliatory gesture, and negotiations that preceded and followed it, was the work of the Algerian Government's more conciliatory wing, which understands that force alone cannot crush Algeria's deeply rooted Islamic movement.

The moderate faction, which includes President Liamine Zeroul, has been repeatedly thwarted by generals determined to block any compromise with Islamic parties. These generals have spurned previous peace proposals and imposed an authoritarian Constitution that bans Islamic party candidates from running for office. On the Islamic side, there are also extremists opposed to compromise.

With the cease-fire announcement, and its positive reception by the Government, the moderates on both sides have now stepped forward — and onto a political limb. That limb will likely be sawed off unless Paris insists that the army allow peace negotiations or face an end to French subsidies and support.

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Victims Should Have Their Day in Court, Too

To the Editor:
Brent Staples (Editorial Observer, Sept. 22) condemns all "grieving victims" by portraying us as vengeance-seeking grandstanders. My 23-year-old daughter was murdered two years ago. I wasn't the victim; she was. My wife and I neither sought publicity nor did it find us, but I vowed to do everything within my power to see that justice would be served.

The district attorney's office kept us informed of all hearings, court proceedings, plea entries and anything else pertinent to the case. Though our opinion was sought when a plea agreement was being considered, we had no veto power over their legal decisions.

We initiated contact and were grateful for being kept informed. Before sentencing I was permitted to make a statement to personalize this tragedy, to let everyone in the courtroom know that Tracy died before she had really lived.

Justice was served, not vengeance. Contrary to Mr. Staples, relatives of Jonathan Levin, the Manhattan schoolteacher murdered last summer, have every moral right to make themselves informed players in the legal proceedings, just as every other parent or sibling of a murder victim does, for it is their child who is not here to speak for him or herself. NORMAN BERKOWITZ Trumbull, Conn., Sept. 22, 1997

Shedding Tears, Loudly

To the Editor:
Re Brent Staples's eloquent plea to limit the testimony of the bereaved at murder trials (Editorial Observer, Sept. 22):

We are a nation of laws, not men, and the question of who can shed the most tears most loudly has no logical bearing on the immorality or the destructiveness of a crime that has

already been committed. We must also look at how this trend encourages us to view justice: are we seeking to keep innocents safe and rehabilitate malefactors, or to raise and sate a bloodlust for our own entertainment?

We're treated to enough of this mob mentality on daytime talk shows: let's keep it out of our courtrooms. MICHAEL A. COHN Austin, Tex., Sept. 23, 1997



Hard-Luck Stories

To the Editor:
Brent Staples (Editorial Observer, Sept. 22) quotes Justice Antonin Scalia as saying that the Supreme Court in 1991 overthrew centuries of precedent in order to satisfy public demands when it permitted the families of murder victims to testify at capital sentencing hearings. In fact, the issue was a novel one at the time because the practice of splitting a capital trial into two parts and letting the jury determine the sentence became widespread only after 1976, when the Court first endorsed it.

However, when imposing sen-

tence, judges have for centuries taken into account the harm done by criminals, and the question in Payne v. Tennessee was whether a sentencing jury should likewise be permitted to hear of the damage caused by the murderer. The Court felt that admitting victim impact testimony was fair, especially since under current law the accused may present virtually any evidence he wishes to persuade the jury to spare his life.

If the murderer has a right to present his hard-luck story, shouldn't the victim's survivors be entitled to tell of the hardships he caused? BARRY LATZER New York, Sept. 23, 1997

The writer is a professor of government at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY.

Mere Case Numbers

To the Editor:
I was surprised and disappointed to read Brent Staples's Sept. 22 Editorial Observer article bemoaning "victims' rights." Contrary to his view, these rights did not just all of a sudden arise out of a new "culture of revenge." Rather, they have always been present, obscured by the judicial system's unwillingness to see crime victims as human beings.

Instead, victims of crime are hard-pressed to be treated as case numbers to be expediently disposed of. And the emphasis on victims' rights is a response not only to years of coddling criminals, as in plea bargaining and early releases, but also in America's money-making culture of violence, fostered in part by a cynical entertainment and news media.

Like Mr. Staples, my family and I do not consider ourselves "victims" with "special entitlements," but if the criminal who put my younger sister in her grave is ever brought to justice, you can bet we will be in court to insure that the trial focuses on the value of the life taken and not on salvaging the murderer who decided to take it. MICHAEL G. FUSILLO New York, Sept. 25, 1997

Coming to Terms

To the Editor:
Brent Staples's suggestion that victims' need for "bloodlust and revenge" has no place in the criminal justice process (Editorial Observer, Sept. 22) illustrates the strong and individual feelings of surviving family members of homicide victims.

For 18 years we have heard family members speak about the pain they feel when they are excluded from the courtroom as the fate of their child's killer is decided; the dismissive tone from prosecutors when they are asked for an update on the case, and the disregard from the parole board when it is asked about the status of an impending release.

We respect the path Mr. Staples took to come to terms with his loss but would not suggest to survivors that any one experience is universal. In fact, one might say that Mr. Staples's article is his victim impact statement. LUCY N. FRIEDMAN Executive Director, Victim Services New York, Sept. 24, 1997

Emotions as Law?

To the Editor:
Thank you, Brent Staples, for saying what so sorely needed to be said ("When Grieving 'Victims' Can Sway the Courts," Editorial Observer, Sept. 22). Emotion and sympathy seem to be eclipsing justice and logic in public opinion.

If "victim impact statements" are to be taken into account when determining punishment of murderers, how does that jibe with the notion that all lives are of equal value? What about those murder victims whose friends and relatives are not articulate, or are not good at demonstrating emotion?

And what about those who have no friends or relatives, or who perhaps just weren't nice people? Their murders may not have caused as many people to suffer a wrenching and publicly demonstrable loss, but isn't the court the place where that sort of thing isn't supposed to matter?

I know that if anyone I loved was murdered, I would get great satisfaction from killing the perpetrator with my bare hands. But I have never been under the impression that my emotions should be the basis of law. MARIA M. COHEN Woodmere, N.Y., Sept. 23, 1997

Food for the Hungry

To the Editor:
"Cutting Waste Can Be a Waste" (Week in Review, Sept. 21) focused on a handful of critics who believe that recovering excess food is a waste of time because it doesn't pay off economically. But that food adds up to 36 billion pounds a year — nearly a third of the United States food supply.

I agree that food waste is a sign of our prosperity and agricultural abundance. But amid all this plenty, nearly 12 million Americans may face food insecurity this year. Food recovery is a highly organized effort to rescue mass quantities of excess, edible food throughout the commercial food chain. There is no large "bureaucracy." This movement is driven by private businesses, charities and citizens, with the encouragement of Government. A strong Federal safety net must always be our first line of defense, but public programs should never be an excuse for private apathy. DAN GLEICKMAN Secretary of Agriculture Washington, Sept. 25, 1997

Editorial Notebook

Candidates in Search of a Story Line

New York City is a more conservative place than it used to be. But you still would not expect to see a mayoral campaign being waged over whether somebody practiced radical chic in 1979. Nevertheless, Mayor Rudolph Giuliani seems to feel there is real political meat in the tactic. "Ruth Messinger Throws a Party for a Murderer," read his campaign press release, claiming that 18 years ago Ms. Messinger hosted a welcome home party for John B. Hill, an inmate who had been convicted of killing a guard during the Attica prison riots and then had his sentence commuted.

Ms. Messinger, in response, dug into her own collection of negative research and asked whether the Mayor "really wants this campaign to be about his effort to dodge the draft" — a reference to Mr. Giuliani's success in getting a deferment during the war in Vietnam. When it comes to the Mayor's distant past, Ms. Messinger might do better tarring him with the fact that, as a teenager, he founded an opera club at his high school. Several Democrats in the city's tougher neighborhoods have claimed that they dissuaded fellow party members from endorsing the Mayor by pointing out that "this is the kind of guy you used to beat up on the playground."

Ms. Messinger says she doesn't remember whether the party for John Hill actually occurred or not. This is an excellent example of how politicians can get into more trouble explaining their deeds than for the acts themselves. A lot of people embraced causes in the 60's and 70's that they might shy away from today. But there are not many who could fail to remember having a party for a central figure in the Attica riots who had just got out of jail for killing somebody.

After some prompting, Ms. Messinger does say that holding the Hill party is something she might have done in 1978 and something she probably would not do now. Ms. Messinger is a more moderate politician than she was 20 years ago, but she seems loath to talk about how

A Statute of Limitations For Political Blunders?

and why. Modern American history is full of politicians who espoused one ideology in their salad days, then successfully evolved into something else — Robert Kennedy, Malcolm X and Ronald Reagan all wrapped their personalities around the idea of political conversion. But they all had a story, a narrative that explained how they got from Point A to Point B.

American voters do not trust what seem like sudden transformations. "I wish they would take me for my word that I repudiate my past," sighed David Duke, who failed in 1991 to convince the voters of Louisiana that a religious conversion had changed him from a racist neo-Nazi into a fair-minded kinda guy. Mr. Duke, whose highest achievement in the tolerance game was opening the Klan to female membership, had an announcement, not a plot line.

The Rev. Al Sharpton has a story, an account of how he has "grown" since he was almost stabbed to death a few years ago, and learned to forgive the white man who assaulted him. The story does not seem to resonate with white voters, but it is one of the reasons that Mr. Sharpton has expanded his support among middle-class blacks. Mr. Giuliani does not require a story arc, because he seems to feel he has been moving in exactly the right direction all his life. (The Mayor is the kind of person who goes to job interviews and says that his greatest flaw is working too hard and actually believes it.)

Ms. Messinger, however, is desperately in need of a personal narrative that shows the public how her thinking has evolved. She is not eager to construct one. Invited to use the Hill incident as a springboard to tell the story of how she has evolved, Ms. Messinger declined. "There are plenty of other instances where I talked about changes," she said, adding that there is no point in talking about a party she is not sure she held.

It is a long way from "Where's the Rest of Me?" GAIL COLLINS

A Stand-Up Egg

To the Editor:
Your article on eggs (Dining in, Sept. 24) praises the organically produced Country Hen brand. One reason it sells well may be that its freshness bears some relation to the date on the carton. In New York, a carton is supposed to carry a date 30 days after it was packaged. Legislators obviously consider one-month-old eggs fresh.

At the store, however, I have seen dates seven weeks ahead. That seems optimistic. Put such an egg in water, and it will likely stand upright, held there by gases at one end. This indicates age. Fry one, and the yolk will lie flat instead of proud, also indicating venerability. PAUL BAOTKORS Brooklyn, Sept. 25, 1997


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Intimidating Immigrants

To the Editor:
The hardships endured by so many immigrants as a result of the harsh new immigration law (front page, Sept. 25) are compounded by the cynical way these laws have been written. On the one hand, noncitizens are faced with long periods of exile if they leave the United States after the Oct. 1 deadline.

On the other hand, unless they do leave, they will be unable to become permanent residents even if they meet all of the requirements and have been patiently waiting for years. ROGER ALGASE New York, Sept. 25, 1997

The writer is a lawyer.



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Essay
WILLIAM SAMPSON
Iran
Girds
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Essay

WILLIAM SAFIRE

Iran Girds For War

WASHINGTON In the 80's, Israel's Mossad warned of nuclear weaponry being developed secretly by Saddam Hussein. The C.I.A. disagreed; "not for 10 years" was its complacent judgment, which warped Bush Administration policy. Now everyone admits that Mossad had it right.

One year ago, Israel shared with our Defense Intelligence Agency Mossad's evidence and conclusions about a new proliferation threat from a supporter of terrorism.

We already knew that Iran was developing nuclear, biological and chemical weapons. What we did not know was this: "Massive Russian assistance and close cooperation with Iran are enabling the Iranian regime to develop independent capabilities to produce medium-range ballistic missile systems within a very short time."

Every nation in the Near East uses a simple test to determine Iran's military intentions: the range of the missiles it seeks to build. As long as that range stayed short of 700 miles, Saudis, Turks and Israelis did not become unduly alarmed. But technical and human sources revealed Shahab-3 and -4, missiles ranging up to 1,240 miles and threatening many capitals (not to mention 20,000 U.S. military personnel in the vicinity). Thus did Iran signal aggressive intentions.

Early this year, mindful of past complacency, our D.I.A. confirmed the Mossad's information. It did not dispute the prediction that mid-range missiles were within 18 months to two years of production inside Iran. And it agreed that in many ways, Russians under loose Moscow control were making the new threat possible.

Boris Yeltsin, at the June G-8 meeting in Denver, denied all. Because President Clinton did not want to use space aid or L.M.F. support for coer-

And the Russians are profiting.

cion, he could only warn that Congress would cut back aid if Moscow persisted in its Teheran adventure.

Israel then went public. Bill Gertz of The Washington Times wrote an exclusive series this month detailing some of the Mossad's findings corroborated by U.S. intelligence. Congress is now awake to Russia's breach of its arms proliferation agreement, despite our State Department's admonition to Israel not to take its case there.

In Moscow last week, Vice President Gore had to publicly remind Prime Minister Chernomyrdin about Iran's "vigorous" nuclear missile buildup. Privately the Russians reminded the Americans that they had fired Aleksandr Kotelkin last month as head of the nation's arms export agency, Rosvooruzhenie, identified by Western agencies as riddled with corruption in the transfer of missile technology.

Gore thinks the threat is being countered by an investigating team headed by our diplomat Frank Wisner and their space agency head, Yuri Koptev. The trouble is that Koptev — whose control over Russia's space technology is symbolized by the condition of the Mir space station — is suspected of being part of the problem. Russian scientists are desperate for money, which Iran offers under the table. The trick for Koptev would be to keep America's financial support while turning a blind eye to the money seeping up from Teheran.

In addition to the secret missile help, hundreds of Russian scientists are openly in Iran building its Bushehr "civilian" reactor. But Iran sits on a sea of cheap oil energy; its only reason for a nuclear reactor is to produce plutonium isotopes for bombs.

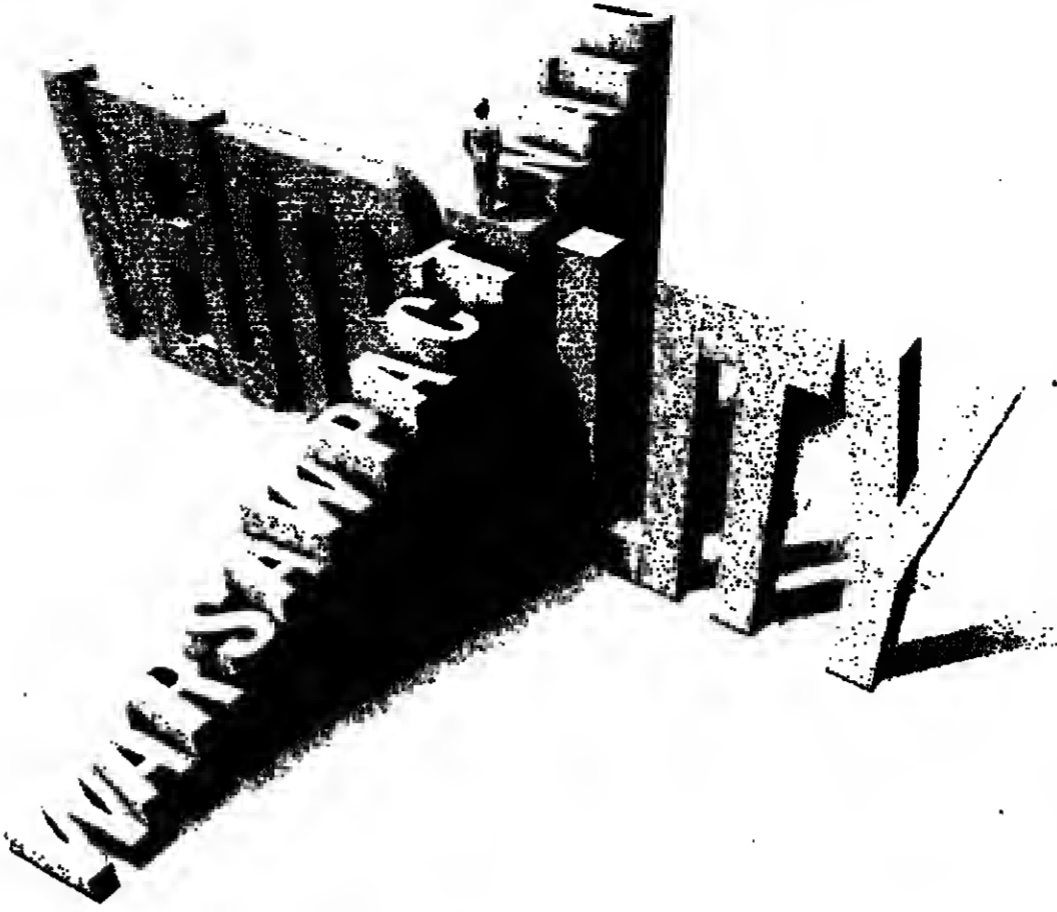
Chernomyrdin would not budge on his "commitment" to a nuclear Iran, and as a sop to Congress offered to let the U.S. see the new plant; the rebuffed Gore replied dryly, "joint monitoring is the least of our concerns."

Set aside differences about West Bank dealings that dominate the headlines. We see developing a fundamental split in the strategic views of Israel and the Clinton Administration over matters affecting national survival.

Israel's Netanyahu views Iran, with its inflammatory rhetoric now backed up with its cool decision to build missiles with warheads that could incinerate Tel Aviv, as Israel's gravest threat.

America's Clinton views our relationship with Russia, with its nuclear capacity and internal instability and democratic potential, as our top priority; accordingly, he tolerates Russia's open and secret support of Iran's bid for nuclear missile coverage of Israel, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Turkey.

America sometimes must act unilaterally and trust that its allies will understand. Same with Israel. Before Iran's invitation to pre-empt grows more blatant, Mr. Gore should sit down with Mr. Clinton to reassess his Russian priority. □



Democracy Without Borders

By Peter Nadas

BUAPEST No one had ever asked anyone in Hungary whether the country wished to join the Warsaw Pact, the military union of the Eastern bloc. Yet on May 14, 1955, Hungary became a founding member of the pact, membership immediately becoming one of the most incontrovertible requirements of the Communist dictatorship.

One cannot help but remember this today, when the question is whether Hungary should join NATO or, rather, whether member nations of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization will accept Hungary's application.

One cannot forget Imre Nagy, the short man with the pince-nez, the Communist Prime Minister of the 1956 revolution who, on Nov. 1, 1956, announced Hungary's unilateral withdrawal from the Warsaw Pact, and "with the most profound sense of responsibility toward the Hungarian people, and history," declared the country's neutrality.

The response, in the form of Russian armored divisions, came in three days. It took that long because Nikita Khrushchev had to convince Marshal Tito of Yugoslavia that the bloody military adventure was imperative. They conferred on the Island of Brioni, where, on top of everything else, the weather was so stormy that planes could neither take off nor land. It had also become clear during those

The West deserted us once. Will it welcome us now?

three days that none of the Western powers could guarantee the neutrality of the small Central European country without raising the threat of another world war.

So much for the declared neutrality. Budapest was laid waste. Two thousand seven hundred people were killed in the fighting. Several hundred thousand people fled across the western border. In the following months 235 freedom fighters were executed; thousands were jailed or thrown into detention camps. Imre Nagy was condemned to death at a secret trial; the sentence was made public only after the execution had been carried out.

I remember standing on the street, the newspaper in my hand, under the leaden sky.

An old story, someone might say if we didn't carry our past with us — each of us, all the time — and if stories and events did not always have an unbroken continuity. But it is my conviction that at the time it was not only in desolated Budapest that European ideals of liberty had ceased to breathe for a long time to come — but also in the rest of Europe.

The Hungarians waited in vain; the Americans did not come; nor could the great European neighbors do anything except take in the refugees and send us Danish cheese and Dutch butter. It was during those days and while feeling "humiliated by this charity" that Heinrich Böll, the German novelist, wrote the terrifying words, "There is no other possibility, after all" which, from the perspective of so many years, is a particularly noteworthy admission.

And for me, today, it still means what it did then, that citizens of the great democracies realized, perhaps for the first time, that responsibility for the fate of democratic communities is inherent in the political reality of democracies. With some trepidation, they also sensed that ultimately

it would be more reasonable to adjust their principles to the realities of their own security and economic policies. They failed to reconcile their emotions with their thinking.

That is how things stood, unquestioned for decades. In 1968 it was the Czechs, in 1981 the Poles, who, in their respective struggles for independence, lived through experiences similar to those of Hungary. In the political, military and diplomatic impotence later displayed by the European democracies during the war in Yugoslavia, the same pattern prevailed. The pattern did not permit the recollection of emotions with thoughts, the common interest of democracies with individual national interests.

Yet, it is precisely in critical situations that nations ought to understand — using plain common sense — that in the long run the lack of solidarity will cause suffering not only to the country that needs that solidarity, but also to the one that, alleging pressing national concerns, denies it.

I feel it is important to mention all this at the moment when the American Senate and the parliaments of member nations are considering whether to support NATO's eastward expansion, and when the Hungarian Government is asking voters whether the country should be a member of this military organization. These questions are far from mere formalities. The answers will tell us whether democracies have a common interest at all, and how strong the interests of individual nations are in opposing it.

Hungary's neutrality has many supporters at home. According to a Gallup poll, 27 percent of those asked are against NATO membership. The surprisingly high number may be explained, in part, by the fact that even in the last century, a driving force in the war against the Austrian imperial house was the desire for military independence. It is also possible that not everyone who professes to be for the country's neutrality is necessarily neutral about the new democracy.

Be that as it may, reticence, biding one's time, fear of active interference on one's own behalf and of performing in the international arena, are deep-seated traits in Hungarian mentality. Though no less deeply embedded in the same mentality are a good sense for political realities, healthy curiosity, inventiveness and a keen ability to recognize situations for what they are.

The answer of 61 percent of those polled offers evidence of these latter traits. They think Hungary should join NATO. This is the majority that probably has no faith in declarations of neutrality, and most likely never believed that the coercive Warsaw Pact, which it was forced to join, was anything like the democratically supervised North Atlantic Treaty Organization. And perhaps this majority does not want to eat any more Danish cheese and Dutch butter while covering in air-raid shelters surrounding with the noise of shelling. Most Hungarians support joining NATO not because they are insanely militaristic, but because they believe in democracy.

The supporters of neutrality are not nearly as united. Based on significantly differing platforms, 13 civil organizations and two extra-parliamentary parties would like to block Hungary's entry into NATO. Only five of these organizations have attracted genuine pacifists, anti-militarists or anarchists — the traditional adherents of military independence or political neutrality. The rest of them have managed to recruit mostly the familiar enemies of democracy: crypto-Communists and crypto-fascists.

Although they can barely communicate even among themselves, every one of these groups hopes that before the plebiscite, scheduled for Nov. 16, it will be able to sway those who are still undecided.

I have felt duty bound to relate the above in such detail so that everyone might see clearly whose position in my country is strengthened and whose is weakened by the arguments, pro and con, now taking place in the international arena. But even considering a worst-case scenario —

rejection by NATO — I don't believe that the democracies of the Czech Republic, Poland or Hungary would be shaken in their foundations. They are all too strong for that.

My own opinion is the spitting image of that held by Sir Ralf Dahrendorf, former director of the London School of Economics, who approves of NATO's eastward expansion, though he judges this to be only the second-best solution.

The best solution would be for us to join the European Union. But in Sir Dahrendorf's view, "the European Union has been an utter failure, and will continue to be one, because, regarding their entry into the near future, it still isn't telling the truth to the East Europeans."

These countries ought to be aware that "Germany and France will block their entry," he said. "And that is why in the meantime we must do everything to protect and nurture the democratic potentials of these countries. And to do that, we have no other possibility but to enlarge NATO to the east."

Clear words. My sentiments, exactly. □

In America

BOB HERBERT

Out of the Sanctuary

BOSTON The alarm that couldn't be ignored came on the evening of May 14, 1992. A funeral was being held at the Morning Star Baptist Church in the tough and poverty-stricken Mattapan neighborhood. The deceased, a 20-year-old man, had been shot in the head while dancing at a party.

A soloist had just finished singing and many in the congregation were weeping when gunfire and shouts of "There he is!" erupted. Pandemonium ensued as a gang of youths wearing black hoods chased one of the mourners around the church. The mourner, a young man, was unable to escape. He was cornered near the altar and stabbed several times.

The mourner survived but there was no way to deny, as one observer noted last week, that the madness had gone over the top. After the so-called "Morning Star incident" it was impossible to pretend that the crime and chaos and degradation in some of Boston's black neighborhoods had not spiraled out of control.

And it was not just Boston. The blood on the carpet and the pews at Morning Star was evidence of the social hemorrhaging that continued to plague black communities across America.

"Our failures were thrown in our face at Morning Star," said the Rev. Eugene F. Rivers 3d, a straight-talking preacher who heads the Azusa Christian Community in Boston's Dorchester neighborhood. He was part of a group of ministers that visited Morning Star a few days after the mourner was attacked.

"We looked at the bullet holes in the sanctuary," he said, "and we realized that we had to step up our involvement. We were dealing with a generation of young people who were alienated not just from the church but from all the institutions of the black community. We knew that if we didn't come out of our sanctuaries, roll up our sleeves and start dealing with these kids in a real way, we as a community were going to be overwhelmed."

"We had been to a large extent a community in denial," said the Rev. Jeffrey L. Brown, a colleague of Mr. Rivers. "We had ignored the problems, leaving them to fester. I tell people: 'The streets were never taken away from you. These are your children. You ran away from your responsibility.'"

Mr. Rivers, Mr. Brown and others decided in the wake of the Morning

Star catastrophe that black churches were not doing nearly enough to save the endangered children of the black community.

"You've got 65,000 black churches in this country," said Mr. Rivers, "and the largest number is concentrated in these badlands neighborhoods. No secular institution has that kind of capacity."

The ministers formed a group called the Ten-Point Coalition, which Mr. Rivers described as a collective

Rescuing Boston's youth.

effort to counter the myriad problems faced by black and Latino youngsters, especially those that lead to violence.

It is not a bogus effort. Ministers and lay people went into the streets and engaged the youngsters. Some of the kids needed little more than a safe place to play. Others needed to be diverted from the commission of a homicide. In between were such issues as fatherlessness, child abuse and neglect, the abuse and sale of drugs, problems in the classroom, teen-age pregnancy, incarceration and chronic joblessness.

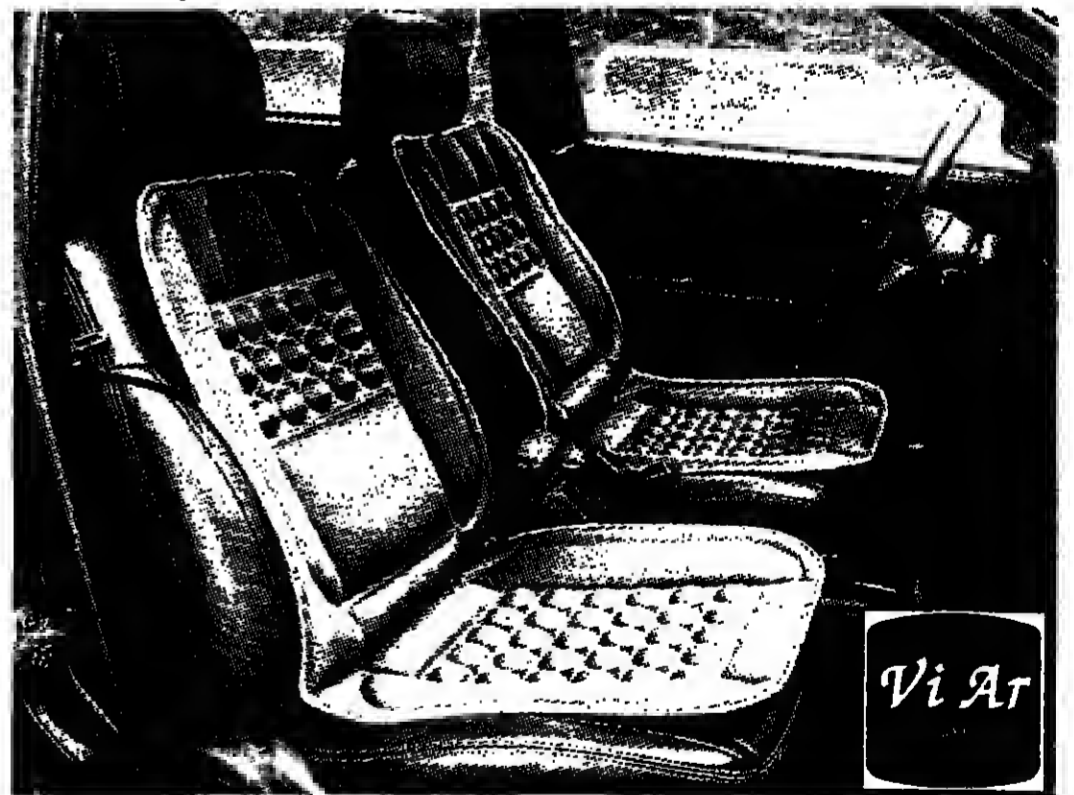
A drug dealer named Selven Brown, now deceased, was for a time the most powerful person in Mr. Rivers's neighborhood. He told Mr. Rivers: "You literally have to take my place. I worked very hard to corrupt these children."

The ministers and their followers went wherever the problems took them. They formed alliances with the Police Department, the business community and government leaders. They went to court on behalf of children in trouble. They sat and listened to kids who simply wanted to talk.

Crime in Boston has declined sharply over the past few years. Shootings, especially those involving juveniles, are way down. The last time a juvenile was killed with a firearm was in July 1995.

There are many reasons for the drop in crime, including more aggressive policing. But a key reason, according to almost all observers, including Mayor Thomas Menino and the Police Commissioner, Paul Evans, has been the heroic and intelligent and sensitive work of the ministers of the Ten-Point Coalition. □

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Telling troubles, from left to right

When you're in crisis and floundering in Hebrew, the whole idea of aliya can seem like a terrible mistake. Allison Ofanansky investigates a new crisis hotline - in English

For those of us whose Hebrew falls somewhere short of fluent, even a mix-up at the bank or a problem at our children's school can be a trial. In the midst of a real trauma, we don't want to need to remember how to conjugate the *huphal*.

A new hotline for English speakers will be ready to start taking calls in mid-November, said Professor Joshua Ritchie, founder of the Crisis Counseling Center. The help-line, called *Mil'ev* ("From the Heart"), will operate out of a Jerusalem office donated by Shaare Zedek Medical Center, and will be run by an all-volunteer staff.

In June, Ritchie and his first few recruits began putting up flyers announcing a training course in English for counselors. Since then, Ritchie said, over 200 people answered the ad and 75 have already been trained to take calls.

Ritchie worked as a family physician until a few years ago, when cancer left him unable to continue. Since retiring, he said, he had been looking for a way to continue caring for people.

"I think this is a desperately needed service, and 200 volunteers think it is desperately needed," Ritchie said. "Most of the people who have called have said, 'When I went through my crisis, there was no one to help me. I want to be able to help someone else.'"

At the beginning of this month's training session, Ritchie had the

new volunteers explain what made them want to get involved. Two had been witnesses of the recent suicide bombings. One had recently been diagnosed with cancer. Others remembered feeling lonely or isolated in a new country and wanted to assist others dealing with the same problems.

Some volunteers had been counselors on hotlines in other countries; others had never done this kind of work before.

During the training, they paired off and did role playing, taking turns being caller and counselor. Ritchie and his wife Lillian listened and gave suggestions on how to deal with difficult situations.

They stressed that counselors need to be non-judgmental. An Orthodox Jew, Ritchie lamented that the religious and secular communities tend to be so judgmental of each other. "We don't want to be critical. We want to hear the human being who is in pain," he said.

Although there are other hotlines in Israel with volunteers who understand English, Ritchie feels there is also a cultural factor.

"Even if you know Hebrew or

they know English, you aren't speaking the same language."

"This is endemic to the English-speaking community," said Shari Grama, the project's administrator. "Just being in Israel can be a crisis. Being a foreigner can be a crisis."

Mil'ev will fill a niche that the Association of Americans and Canadians in Israel or private therapists can't. Both the caller and the counselor will remain completely anonymous.

"Even though there may be over 100,000 English-speakers here, that turns out to be a very small world," Ritchie said. To protect that anonymity, the center requests that phone volunteers not be identified by name.

"If someone knows they'll be talking to me, they may as well come see me in my office, and that's a totally different relationship," said a physician who has been in Israel for four years and is one of the hotline supervisors. "What we offer are anonymous ears."

Mil'ev's four phone lines will be open for 15 hours a day (9 a.m. to midnight) at the beginning, but Ritchie hopes to expand to 24-hour

service as more people are trained. The volunteers will work in pairs, a more experienced counselor working with a newer one. Supervisors will be on call to assist, and Ritchie will always be available for advice.

"Most people tend to shrink when someone comes to them in emotional distress. It can be very draining," said Lillian Ritchie, who works as her husband's partner. "But I am impressed with the caliber of people who have volunteered. We have doctors, nurses, psychiatrists, social workers."

One psychologist who is taking the training course is a survivor of the Ben-Yehuda Street bombing.

"When the first bomb went off," she said, "I went over to help. Then another bomb went off right near me. In a matter of seconds, I went from helper to victim. I feel an incessant need to do something productive from this."

Some professionals got involved with Mil'ev because they are not yet able to work in their fields in Hebrew. "This is also a service for the volunteers," Grama said. "People want to give, and feel like they're just flopping around in

Hebrew. This is giving people a chance to give."

"We want the entire English-speaking community to know about this," said Suzzannah Radnzy, who came to Israel from Montreal four months ago. Radnzy, who worked as a management consultant in Canada, is helping with public relations and fund-raising.

"When you're in a panic, you don't want to have to deal with your broken Hebrew. People can call about anything. It can be something as simple as 'I just lost my passport. What do I do?'"

As part of the service, the center is compiling a referral directory, Grama said. Callers can be given information not only about what organizations exist, but to what extent they are equipped to deal with English speakers.

"We hope to reach not just English-speaking immigrants, but the Christian community too - Palestinians, people in Jordan; anyone who feels more comfortable speaking in English," said a doctor who is volunteering as a counselor. "Anyone who has a phone line and is feeling lonely can call."

"Sometimes, just the fact that somebody cares enough to be there to answer the phone can be helpful," said Ritchie. "Our first duty is to listen."

The phone number for Mil'ev is (02) 654-1111. People interested in volunteer training courses should contact Ritchie at (02) 643-6771.

From the desk of...

I've got a new desk. Well, not new, really. It's the oldest desk in the building.

If desks could talk (and modern science has yet to prove they can't), this one would be in a book of records under "World's Most Loquacious Desk, The."

I haven't had it carbon-dated - that is, I can't find a carbon copy of the original sales slip in its drawer because the drawer no longer exists - but according to old-timers here, this was Gershon Agron's desk when he founded the *Jay Pee* (then known as the *Pea Pee*) in 1932.

The desk is an old slab of wood about half a dunam big, propped wobbly on two smaller vertical slabs; simple, inelegant, austere. Here and there, little dribbles of white-out adorn it, which throbs modern-day assumptions that Gershon the Great was flawless. Still more intriguing are the hieroglyphic doodles etched into the molding, proof that even in this hottest of hot-seats, at the vortex of the newest city in the world, there were moments of boredom.

I think this desk is haunted. I'm not sure, but every time I send a column from my computer, I hear a voice. "Copy boy! Copy boy! Co-o-o-py boy-y-y-y!" - followed by a sort of Russian-

though my computer is so old that - nah, it wouldn't be that old. For that matter, I'm sure this tabletop never before saw a mouse. Or a hockey puck, which I use as a paperweight. The desk (also the puck) hasn't seen much action since I began using it. Not like the old days. The good old days.

Agron, sitting here, wondering if his staff would get to work alive, dodging Arab snipers and British patrols, wondering if his paper would get out, struggling against blackouts, curfews, sieges, bombs and the censor. (The censor was the only force ever able to keep this paper from publishing, and only once: on October 7, 1936. I imagine Agron pounded this desk a few times that day.)

Oh, the headaches: circulation as low as 2,000; losing 12 of his 45 staffers to volunteer enlistment during the War To End All Wars II; having to yank Ferd'nand for lack of space (that's been a consideration almost daily since it first appeared on July 3, 1938) and, lest we forget, the biggest headache of all: February 1, 1948.

That was the day this desk almost died, the day *The Palestine Post* was bombed.

Not Page One



Sam Orbaum

An old slab of wood, inelegant, austere. But what a history!

accented growl. If I believed in ghosts, I'd say this one was troubled by what has become of the desk. Or perhaps the city. (That the city is haunted is widely acknowledged.)

I can only hope G.A.'s ghost has better things to do than hang around here, spooking me. G.A., of course, went on to become mayor of Jerusalem, and though he didn't take his old desk with him to City Hall, that's where his apparition should be lurking.

There's magic in the thought that where I put my hands, so did G.A. before me, but with cufflinks. Agron's distance, from where I now sit, reminding young cub reporters looked to awe and terror at a round, bespectacled face that could make or break their careers with a single word.

Where I look dumbly at a garden-variety plant, G.A. faced the giants of yesterday: B-G, Golda, Weizmann, Sharett, Begin.

Perhaps exactly where my computer is now, a galaxy bearing the upper-case headline STATE OF ISRAEL IS BORN was being red-penciled.

So maybe that's it: Ghosts hate progress. A computer on Agron's desk is spiritually provocative.

I don't know if Agron was at his desk at that moment, but if he was, I'll bet the next moment he was under it. It's big enough, and solid enough, to have withstood the upper floors falling on it.

From this desk came the terse order that same day to publish, bombs be damned.

Sitting at Gershon Agron's desk, I can't help but wonder what his chair was like. Because no matter what I sit on, my feet don't reach the floor if I want my hands to concurrently rest on the desktop, which I do. This desk was built for someone seven feet tall, which, Agron, was not.

My guess is that dangling feet was a small price to pay to sit high at a huge desk, which creates the desirable effect of dwarfing anyone seated at the other side of it.

I should affix a plaque reading "Gershon Agron Loomed Here." Some day, I suppose, they'll haul this desk off to some museum and give me a mass-produced fake-veneer factory piece instead.

Though to tell you the truth, I'd rather take the old thing with me into City Hall - I mean, if I ever become mayor, as occupants of this desk tend to do.

Kibbutzim: Birds' stopover, birdlovers' Disneyland

By AMY KLEIN

What is it about birdwatching that makes it the No. 2 hobby in the world? (It's right behind gardening and somewhere ahead of stamp collecting and macramé.)

"I think everyone, when they're young, dreams of being able to fly," explains Dr. Yossi Leshem, one of the world's foremost experts on birds.

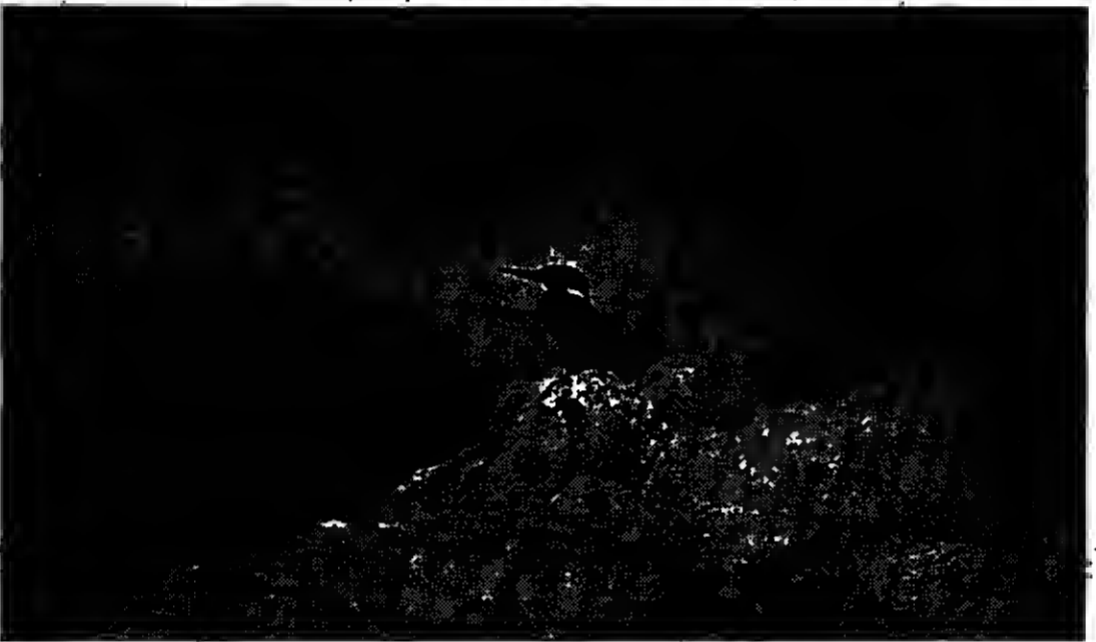
Like piloting, skydiving, hang gliding or any other airborne activity, birdwatching may be the way the earthbound fulfill their fancy for flight. Whatever the reason, it's something 13 million people around the world do. And in pursuit of their hobby, they are willing to spend money on travel, food, lodging and

Enter Israeli birdwatching, like the promoting of Israel to Christian fundamentalists for the millennium, or the pitch to archeologists for excavation sites, Israel is gearing up to attract a new flock of tourists to Israel because of its abundance of birds.

American Jews winter in Miami; European birds winter in Africa. Israel, as the crossroads of the three continents of Asia, Europe and Africa, is on the birds' migration path to and from their winter homes.

Per square kilometer, Israel sees the highest concentration of birds in the world. And it's an especially diverse lot: over 400 different species. Our small country sees about 500 million birds per migrating season - resident, migrating, wintering and breeding. There's a lot of birds.

The birds are nothing new. Neither are the ringing stations



The kingfisher spends nine to 10 months in Israel and can be seen at Kfar Ruppin. (Dan Elan)

located in the Jordan Valley, where professionals place small metal rings on the birds' legs, according to international procedure, to study them and their migration paths and share the information with the rest of the world.

What is new is that the kibbutzim have realized they have a veritable Disneyland for birdlovers.

The Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel (SPNI) - of which the national birdwatching society is a branch - together with kibbutzim around the country are trying to attract foreign tourists to come to Israel to watch the birds.

Yossef "Yucha" Engel, director of the SPNI's Tourist Department, esti-

mates that they can bring between 50,000 and 100,000 birdwatchers to Israel if the niche is developed properly. (The Ministry of Tourism is not involved because those numbers are "too small" for them.)

For example, Kfar Ruppin, a kibbutz near Beit She'an which houses a birdwatching and ringing center, is offering a package tour. A private double room with TV, air-conditioning, heating and bathroom costs NIS 220 per couple on weekends, NIS 200 during the week. At their less expensive hostel (4-7 people per room), you get breakfast, use of the kibbutz facilities and a guided ornithological tour of the area.

A number of other kibbutzim in

the area also have guest houses, and all are prepared to increase their facilities if the birdwatchers - foreign and local - show up.

The Jordan Valley, with its salt-water fish ponds, is a natural way station for birds. One 200-dunam lake at the westernmost point of Kfar Ruppin, once part of Jordan, is now a breathtaking vantage point not just for admiring the birds but for viewing the verdant vista as well. Other birdwatching centers around the country include Eilat and the Hula Valley.

In fact, on October 21, SPNI is sponsoring a full day of bird-watching/walking tours at the Hula Valley. Although the SPNI is marketing

its birdwatching packages to the foreign market, Israelis, who are more likely to book tours directly through the kibbutzim rather than the SPNI, are part of the birdwatching tourist campaign as well.

The SPNI is trying to create more birdwatchers with its new computer program called Migrating Birds Know No Boundaries. Students use the Internet to track the migration of special birds which have had satellite transmitters attached to them. By following weather reports and keeping in contact with other students in neighboring countries, they can complete research projects, combining knowledge of computers, biology, weather and birds.

What does it take to be a birdwatcher? A pair of binoculars and a modicum of patience. But one does not have to be an avid birdwatcher to watch birds. All you really need is to enjoy being outdoors and have an appreciation for nature and her creatures.

Within that perspective, most Israelis are potential birdwatchers. "Watching birds always excites me. It gives me the feeling that there is something above us," says Leshem, a biology professor.

"When I study the birds, I realize there is so much I don't know."

For more information, call the Kfar Ruppin Bird-Watching Center at (06) 658-9396.

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On August 7, 1997, an amendment to the regulations regarding the granting of loans came into effect. This amendment makes those with limited mobility and who use a wheel chair eligible for a loan for the purchase of a wheel-chair lift. Those eligible for such a loan may buy a wheel-chair lift of any type, provided it is suitable for the vehicle they own. (It does not matter whether the vehicle was purchased with a standing loan, or not.)

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for such a loan, you must be of limited mobility and eligible for a mobility allowance. The medical board or the medical appeals board must have decided that you need a wheel chair, and you in fact use a wheel chair. You must be ineligible for a lift or loan for the purchase of a lift, under any other law or arrangement.

You may apply for a loan once every five years - under special circumstances, after less than five years, since your last application. The loan will become a grant, after five years.

AMOUNT OF LOAN

The loan will be for 80% of the cost of the lift bought, including the installation cost and taxes, but not more than a ceiling of \$2,762.

Those receiving a loan will be required to sign an agreement, which will include the conditions under which the loan must be repaid, and the rules applying to the use of the lift. Further particulars may be obtained from the staff of the Mobility Department at your nearest branch of the NII.

Information and Public Relations

Protecting Your Rights

NEWS of the muse

Radio 3 excludes songs in English

Kol Yisrael's popular music channel Radio 3 (Reshet Gimel) will broadcast only Hebrew-language songs beginning November 1. Israel Radio director Amnon Nadav said the decision was made as a result of competition with regional radio stations. Gimel has lost 50 percent of its listeners since local stations began broadcasting. There were rumors that Kol Yisrael would shut down the station altogether, but Nadav believes turning it into an all-Israeli music station will restore its popularity. He said Gimel will also encourage local talent. Jerusalem Post Staff

All the world's a stage

The Batsheva Ensemble is off to Hannover, Germany, from October 6-10 with a program of repertory pieces by Ohad Naharin. It will perform *Pasopmezzo* and excerpts from *Kyr* and *Dance Party*. It will also have a few rehearsals with Spanish choreographer Joaquin Sabate, who is creating a new piece for them.

What started as a graduation project at Jerusalem's School of Visual Theater has grown tremendously. Now the Habamah production of *I Murdered Tommy*, a take-off on Agatha Christie's *Ten Little Indians*, by puppeteers Myriam Salzberg and Tsipor Frumkin, has received standing ovations and an extended engagement at the Charleville International Puppet Theater Festival in France earlier this month.

Christie's secluded island where 10 people with unsavory pasts are gradually humped off is, instead, an old closet inhabited by paper characters. But the fears and uncertainties remain. The festival, whose focus this year was Israel and Japan, hosted some 400 plays from around the world.

The Kibbutz Dance Company, on tour with Rami Be'er's *Aide Memoire*, got cheered on opening night at the Fourth International Performing Arts Festival at Porto Allegre in Brazil. The festival is hosting some 48 companies from all over. The KDC then goes to another performing arts festival in Buenos Aires, the first of its kind there. Helen Kaye

Orna Porat 'works miracles'

First Lady Reuma Weizman was the guest of honor at a gala benefit production of William Gibson's *The Miracle Worker* at the Haifa Theater last night on behalf of the Israel Deaf Association. The Orna Porat Children and Youth Theater production is directed by Porat, the theater's founder. It tells the story of Helen Keller and Annie Sullivan, the amazing woman who taught Helen the meaning of language by breaking through the dark, silent world she lived in. The moment when Helen at last understands that the wet stuff cascading over her hands, and the taps that Annie signs onto her palm both mean water, is one of the most powerful moments in theater. Helen Kaye

Israeli films compete for honors

Jewish Revenge is a movie about love and vendetta. It's also about the successful collaboration between immigrant filmmakers and their Israeli counterparts. Director Alexander Shabatayev comes from Dagestan, home of the "mountain Jews" for whom vendetta is a centuries-old tradition. Shabatayev is himself a mountain Jew and has been carrying the story around with him for years. A joint Israeli/Ukrainian production of *Jewish Revenge* will be screened at the Valencia Film Festival next month. It has also been entered in the 1997 Israeli Academy Awards.

Another competitor is making its debut at the Haifa Film Festival. Adi Yefet-Fuchs's 50-minute documentary, *Arkadi and Moketi*, is about the friendship that develops between two immigrants from very different cultures - one from Russia, the other from Ethiopia. Moketi (Darba) is an 18-year-old Ethiopian long-distance running champion who placed 16th in the 10,000 meters at the Junior World Championships in Sydney.

Arkadi (Skilar) was a sought-after athletics coach in his native Ukraine. Both immigrated to Israel five years ago and experienced, each in his own way, the wrenching culture shock that both groups encounter. Helen Kaye

More than a hill of 'Beans'

Bean, the ultimate disaster movie starring the comedian Rowan Atkinson as a clumsy English buffoon, has topped \$100 million at box offices around the world - and it has still not yet opened in the giant North American market. (It reaches the US in November.)

The film, written by *Four Weddings and a Funeral* scriptwriter Richard Curtis, opened in Israeli theaters in August. It went to No. 1 in Spain, is Serbia's highest-grossing film, and was the biggest success of the year in Norway. (Reuters)

MOVIE REVIEW



Julia Ormond seems far too English and cover-girl pretty to play the title role in Bille August's adaptation of the best-selling novel about the plight of the Inuit.

Conspiracy in Greenland

By ADINA HOFFMAN

Danish writer Peter Hoeg's best-selling 1993 novel, *Smilla's Sense of Snow*, is a wonderfully hard-to-categorize work. Ostensibly a thriller, the book also holds its own as a serious literary endeavor, placing its keenly realized characters against a dark urban backdrop that's abstract in its wintry grayness yet altogether real. Besides its potboiler elements, the book offers a sharp, site-specific political commentary on the little-known fate of the Inuit people. Hoeg uses a lithe and intelligent prose to tell the story of Smilla, an adamantly independent glacial morphologist of part-Greenlandic descent who lives alone in a Copenhagen public housing project and who grows increasingly suspicious when her next door neighbor and good friend, a little Inuit boy named Isiah, falls to his death off the roof.

Smilla is convinced that Isiah's tumble was no accident: the boy was afraid of heights and never would have ventured up there alone. He must have been chased. As she sets out to determine what happened, she finds herself wading deeper and deeper into a complicated government conspiracy involving the child, their Edenic homeland

SMILLA'S SENSE OF SNOW

Directed by Bille August. Screenplay by Ann Bierman, based on the novel by Peter Hoeg. Hebrew title: *Hush harkelig shed he'alev Smilla*. 121 minutes. English dialogue, Hebrew subtitles. Children under 17 not admitted without an adult. With Julia Ormond, Gabriel Byrne, Richard Harris, Robert Loggia and Vanessa Redgrave

and a shadowy medical experiment whose origins date back to a hundred-year-old natural disaster of some elusive sort.

In many ways, Hoeg's novel seems prime movie material. Its neat mystery plot, strong characters and dramatic settings would appear to lead themselves perfectly to the screen. (The action moves eventually from the dimly lit city streets to the icy outer reaches of Gela Alta in Greenland.) And from a screenwriter's point of view, the adaptation shouldn't be too difficult: sizeable chunks of the novel consist of dialogue and monologues.

Et cetera et cetera and so forth. For a variety of perplexing reasons, though, Bille August's new film version of the novel is an

awkward disappointment. I say perplexing since in fact the picture sticks closely to the book's outline and works hard - using ominous music and a stark blue-black palette - to recreate the eerie sub-zero atmosphere that pervades Hoeg's book. August himself is Danish and has demonstrated in the past a coolly unflappable Nordic sensibility. Indeed, even his film version of Isabel Allende's steamy *House of the Spirits* had a rather distant, cold-weather feel. Still, the various literally rendered pieces of the novel never come together in movie form. Some crucial spark or binding element is missing, and when most of the book's delicate subtextual nuance falls away, we're left with little but a dull approximation of its silly pulp surface, an Eskimo Nancy Drew.

As Smilla, the sad-looking Julia Ormond accounts for some of the problem.

Although she's plainly working hard to give her character an inner life, all we see is the effort. Her slightly mournful, bitten-demeanor is cryptic. We don't quite know why she's so hostile to everyone around her, and although the script offers a perfunctory political explanation (Smilla is in exile, a child of nature who feels profoundly out of place in urban Denmark), that ver-

sion doesn't jibe with the sight of the well-heeled glamour girl before us. Even with her oiled darkened china doll bangs, bulky sweaters and walrus-husk jewelry, Ormond seems far too English and cover-girl pretty for this explicitly ethnic and quirky part.

The problem is not that August has decided to Hollywood-ify the whole movie. It's that he's caught between honoring the rules of the John Grisham-style thriller genre and trying for something more ambitiously subtle. While Ormond and her filmic beau, the dashing Irishman Gabriel Byrne, both look and carry themselves like movie stars, most of the rest of the roles are cast and acted in a gritty, down-to-earth manner. Isiah and his mother, for example, are real Inuits, with broad ruddy cheeks and narrow eyes, and the supporting cast is peppered with various bucktoothed, big oosed, actual-looking people.

At the same time, the picture slops up its dramatic emphases, and swerves between standard action-movie sequences and prolonged shots of the heroine looking wistful and ambivalent about the chases and explosions all around her. Instead of the moody ambiguity that characterized these shifts in Hoeg's hybrid novel, however, the movie just seems confused.

The fiddler's back on his roof

By HELEN KAYE

It was almost old-home week at the Maxim Theater in Tel Aviv last Monday. There on the stage were Haim Topol, Rivka Raz, Dan Almagor and producer Avraham (Pashanel) Deshe, laughing, talking, and swapping memories about *Fiddler on the Roof*, past and present.

The ads have been in the Hebrew press for weeks: "Topol in his greatest role in the best and most wonderful musical of all time..."

And there he happily was, bespectacled, silver-haired, a little thin on top, eyes twinkling and still in love with Teyve, the role he's done 1,800 times and still counting.

"It's the best part ever written for a singing actor," he says. "And the more I do it, the more I discover in it. I was 30 when I started and I had to imagine how a father feels. Now I know. Back then, 25 years of marriage seemed like an eon. Now, tfu, tfu, tfu, I've been married 41 years and married off two of my daughters. I know all the pains and joys of fatherhood." He last did the role at London's

Palladium three years ago. He's done it here, in New York and Japan among other places. He won the role in the movie version that Norman Jewison directed 25 years ago - for which Topol earned an Oscar nomination.

The current producers screened the movie to all the hopefuls before the auditions started, just in case the story of Teyve, his five daughters, and the passing of a way of life, wouldn't play to the MTV generation.

They needn't have worried. The kids got caught up in the euphoria of "Lehaim - to Life," sobbed as Hodel tells her Papa she has to go and join her firebrand Perchik in Siberia, and got goosebumps as Anatevka pulls up stakes and the Jewish people, once again, are driven from their home.

The chunimny get-together at Maxim revealed some of the rest of the cast. Raz, the queen of Israel's musical stage in the '70s, will play Teyve's Goida. Shlomo Vishinsky will play the butcher Lazer Wolf - "meat and milk," quipped Topol. His own daughter, Adi, who played the youngest daughter at the Palladium, will do the eldest in this



Topol as Teyve at the London Palladium (UPPA)

one. Avi Hadash sewed up the role as Motel the tailor.

Dina Golan, the Ethel Merman of the vocal stage, will do Frumme Sarah, Lazer Wolf's deceased wife; ex-Mango beauty Michal Tsafir is Hodel; and young drama school grad Yiftah Kammer is Perchik. Havaleh has not been cast yet, nor have Yente the matchmaker or Fyedka the Russian. "We have at

least three or four candidates for every role," says Topol, who has final casting control. "The talent here is amazing."

The director is Sammy Bas, who has directed Topol in London and New York. He's directed a lot of Fiddlers because the production has to be a replication of Jerome Robbins' original 1964 *Fiddler*, the all-time success by Joseph Stein, Jerry Bock and Sheldon Harnick that many thought would

"Who would go to see a musical about Jews?" they asked.

Translator Dan Almagor has updated the version he did for the first local *Fiddler* 27 years ago. And he has a story to tell about the Broadway original. "I heard about it when I was in New York one time, so I went to Washington where the previews were..." The second act was awful, he says. After the curtain came down, he went backstage and introduced himself to the creators, who were sitting around glumly. "This was when it was still cool to be an Israeli, so all those Jews perked up when I told them I was from Israel," laughs Almagor. "How

could you write a musical based on a Shalom Aleichem story and not talk about Jerusalem?" he asked them. "All right," they said. "For you, we'll put in something."

And they did. Yente goes to Jerusalem. The way Almagor sees it, he's responsible for the hit song "Anatevka" too - part of that same lesson in Yiddishkeit.

Fiddler played in Japan as well, to packed houses. The Japanese are convinced it's based on one of their stories.

"Its appeal is universal, sentiment and all," says Topol. "It has something to say in every generation. In the '60s it was the passing of the old order; today it's refugees. But the relationship of a father to his children transcends time."

The curtain for this \$1 million-plus, local privately funded production goes up at the Jerusalem Theater on December 20, riding a little on the coattails of the Jubilee (which could do with some real star quality).

There will also be performances at the Maan Auditorium in Tel Aviv and at the new Convention Center in Haifa.

By J.D. CONSIDINE

Once one of the biggest stars in pop music, Prince seems to have shrunk into the shadows. He's barely on MTV anymore, hasn't made a movie since *Graffiti Bridge* flopped, and hasn't released a million-seller since *The Love Symbol Album* came out in 1993. He doesn't even have a record deal anymore.

By his own standards, however, things couldn't be better. "People who wonder if I miss 'the top' have no concept of evolution!" says the singer who now goes by the name The Artist. Perhaps the funniest thing is that the further he gets from that star-making machinery, the more in touch with his fans he becomes. After leaving Warner Bros.

Prince - out of sight but online

Records, he cut a deal with EMI America for his first totally new album in years, the three-CD *Emancipation*, which came out last November. It was negotiated as a single-album deal, but before he and EMI could arrange further projects, the label went out of business. Suddenly The Artist was on his own.

It was a situation that would have left others scratching their heads or moaning the blues. But he saw it as an opportunity.

An avid online buff, he realized he didn't need a record company to reach his fans - all it took was the worldwide web. So in July, he started a website (the address is

<http://www.love4oneanother.com>), which describes itself as "the definitive place of gathering 4 all who love life... The beginning of a worldwide effort 2 change the vibration of the world." One of the first things he did online was announce his next recording project, a four-CD set of what he calls "bootleg" material. Dubbed *Crystal Ball*, it retails for \$50 and is available in the US only by phone order (1-800-NEW-FUNK).

It's not a normal album release. For one thing, *Crystal Ball* is, at the moment, merely a speculative effort, as The Artist won't actually begin pressing the set until he has 100,000 pre-orders in hand. For

another, there are no plans for a booklet to accompany the album. Instead, credits and liner notes will be found at a special website - one designed by The Artist's fans.

By dealing directly with his audience, The Artist hopes to produce music at a pace that suits his creativity, instead of being shackled to a marketing system designed to milk albums for as long as three years.

In addition to using the Web to get the word out about his music, The Artist is hoping to create a virtual community of computer-savvy fans. One of the features of his website is the New Power Generation's "Xperiment in Truth," a fan data-

base The Artist is building to develop "a direct line" to his fans.

If that sounds like some sort of marketing scheme, consider the fact that those who take part in the "Xperiment" receive copies of an all-acoustic album called *The Truth*. Or look at the information that turns up on The Artist's website. Recent nuggets have ranged from fan club stuff like tips on TV appearances and news about The Artist's Love 4 One Another charity, to gossipy items about how he and his wife, Mayte, keep in touch from the road by laptop and Quickcam.

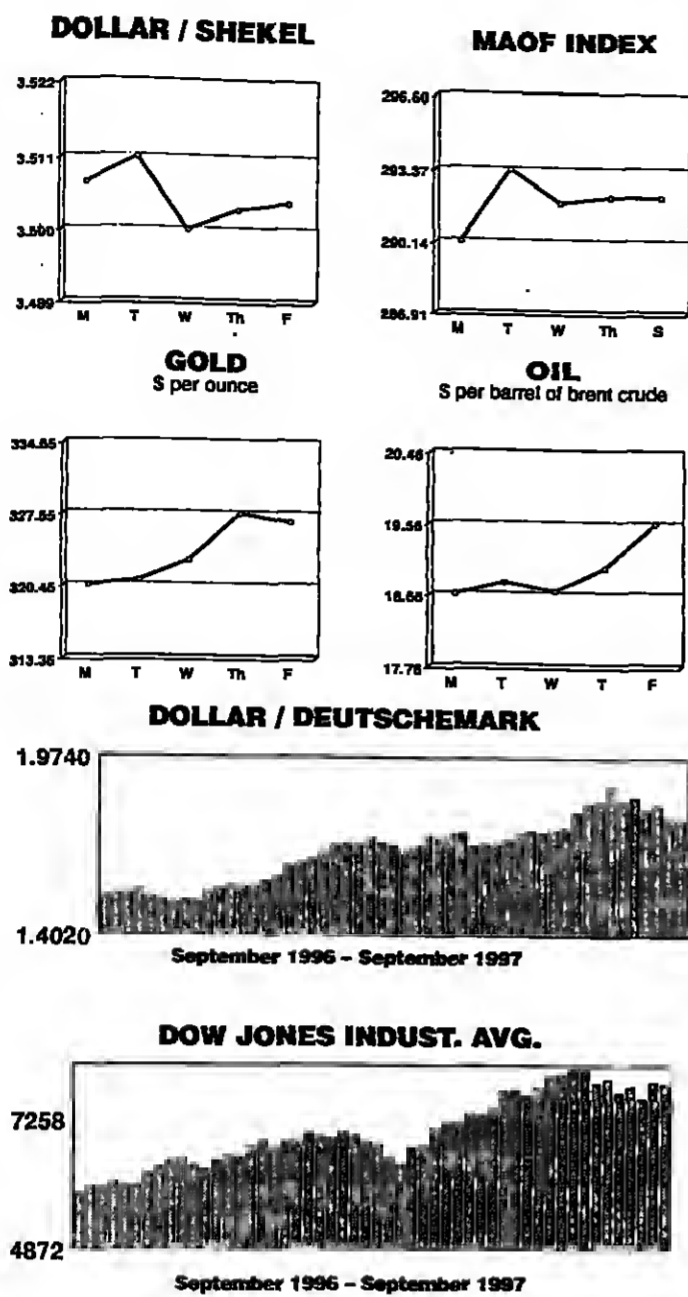
Why is The Artist so obsessed with online life? "There is a saying 'Where there is more than one, there is aberration,'" he says. "The connection between my 'friends' and I, online, is unbroken by aberration." (AP)

SEE IT IN HEBREW-HEAR IT IN ENGLISH! TAKING SIDES October 7 at 8:30 pm at ZOA House Rehov Dabir, Frisch (corner of Ibn Gabirol) Ronald Harwood's smash hit (London and New York) about Wilhelm Furtwangler, one of the most outstanding conductors of his generation, who was brought before the American Tribunal in Berlin in 1946 accused of serving Nazism. He was later acquitted, but forever stigmatized for his belief in the supremacy of art over politics. This may or may not have been justified. It all depends on the side you take. BOX OFFICE: 03-523-3335 • FAX: 03-523-0172 SUBSCRIPTIONS: 03-524-5211 The Cameri Theatre can now be found on the Internet (Address as follows): <http://www.cameri.virtual.co.il> CAMERI THEATRE Located in the heart of Tel Aviv on lively Dizengoff Street, the Cameri is just a few minutes' walk from beachfront hotels. Easily accessible by bus or taxi. The Best of Israeli Theatre every Tuesday night with simultaneous translation into English

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MARKETS

in brief



Utah seeks business in Israel

Utah is likely to establish a representative presence in Israel in the coming months, according to a senior delegation from the US state, on a fact-finding mission in Israel last week. The team from the state's International Business Development Office is looking at possible ties in the fields of computer hardware and software, biomedicine, communications, aerospace, mining and agriculture - the main industries in Utah.

The Utah representatives have been highly impressed with the business environment they found in Israel during their stay, said office deputy director Franz Kolb. "This is a very progressive country where things are moving and shaking," said Kolb. "There is a great readiness and willingness in Israel to do business."

The team, which has returned to the US, will consider how to move forward, including possible investments, strategic alliances, joint ventures and trade delegations. "There are many similarities between the two," added Kolb. "Take the climate for example, we have the Salt Lake and you have the Dead Sea." Israel could benefit from Utah's experience in recycling technology, said Kolb, noting the lack of recycling here. Exports from Utah increased 36 percent last year to \$4.2 billion.

David Harris

August unemployment hits 8%

By DAVID HARRIS and
Globe's News Service

Unemployment reached 8 percent in July and August, the highest figure since early 1994, according to initial data published yesterday by the Central Bureau of Statistics. The August jobless total stood at some 180,000, a 0.1% increase on the June figure and 0.2% higher than in May. Unemployment has increased by 1.6% over the last 20 months.

This trend is far worse than the Treasury's most pessimistic figures, which suggested there would be 7.7% unemployment by December 31 and 7.9% 12 months later. The Treasury also predicted two sets of figures for unemployment by 2000. In the optimistic view, the total will shrink to 6.8%, but in the worst-case scenario 11.4% of the workforce will be unemployed.

The number of jobless rose by 12,000 in two months, reaching 180,000 in July, compared with 168,000, on average, who were registered during the second quarter of the year. Since the beginning of '96, an additional 41,000 have swelled the ranks of the unemployed. A minuscule rise of 1% in annual terms, in the number of wage earners, was reported for May/June, following stabilization in January to April, as compared to 5% for the whole of '96, and more than 7% for the whole of '95. A decrease of 1% in the number of

employed in the business sector, mainly manufacturing, was noted. Real wages have risen at an annual rate of less than 1% since the beginning of the year. This represents the smallest rise in real wages, since '93. In '96, real wages rose 1.6% and in '95 they rose 2.2%.

The latest figures from the Employment Service published two weeks ago also pointed to a widening employment gap between the better off areas and those seen as being socially weak, particularly those designated as development areas.

The highest levels of unemployment are found in Ofakim (16.4%), Sderot (14.1%), Kuseifa (13.8%), Yeroham (12.8%), Kiryat Gat (12.8%), and Rahat (12.4%). Sixteen towns now have unemployment rates in excess of 10%. Eilat, Jerusalem, and Tel Aviv, meanwhile, have the lowest jobless rates at 1.9%, 3.1% and 3.5% respectively.



No to Nike

Youths protest over the weekend outside a Nike Town store in New York City, calling on Nike to engage in fair labor practices abroad, to lower the price of their shoes, and to reinvest in America's inner cities. Some demonstrators returned their Nike shoes to the store in a symbolic gesture.

Airbus arrives to discuss \$200 million El Al deal

By HAIM SHAPIRO

Airbus Industrie officials will arrive in Israel this week to discuss a potential \$200 million deal with El Al, executives at the national airline said yesterday.

El Al's chairman, Yosef Ciechanover, and general manager, Yoel Feldschuh, will head the discussions regarding the purchase of five short- to medium-range aircraft, while Airbus CEO Jean Pierson will lead his company's delegation.

A senior Boeing delegation is due to arrive next week.

Feldschuh said the decision is a crucial one. As the national airline gears up for a major campaign to attract the business-class market, Feldschuh said El Al officials will closely inspect the features - namely the number of seats and the amount of leg room - each company's planes offer. He said that El Al's final decision will be based on which planes would be more attractive to passengers.

"Our decision is to be reached on the basis of comfort for the passengers and not just price," the El Al director said.

El Al spokesman Nachman Kleiman said the choice was between the Airbus A319, which holds about 110 passengers, or the A320, capable of carrying 150, and the Boeing 737-700, or 737-800, which can also carry 110 or 150 passengers, respectively. He said that decision would be made by the end of the year.

So far, he said, there had been no political pressure either from the Americans or the Europeans concerning the purchase.

The new planes would be used for short or medium runs, such as Frankfurt, Zurich, Paris, London, Rome or Istanbul, Kleiman said. In many cases, the planes would be used in afternoon flights, which are especially suitable for businessmen.

The new aircraft, due to be delivered in 1999, along with El Al's fourth Boeing 747-400, would also free up the company's larger, long-range planes so that El Al could introduce more flights to destinations such as Bombay and Bangkok, he said.

Siemens, Ramallah company in R&D project

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

Siemens Data Communication, a Karmiel-based subsidiary of Siemens AG, and an undisclosed high-tech company in Ramallah have established a joint research and development center in the West Bank town. Sam Widerman, general manager of Siemens Data Communication, said yesterday.

For the past several months Siemens has been training five Palestinian engineers, who will return to company headquarters in Ramallah next summer. There they will serve as the core engineers at the joint center, which will focus on the development of telecommunications network projects.

By the year 2000, the center is

expected to employ 100 Palestinian engineers.

Widerman said the project's purpose is four-fold: to help create jobs for educated Palestinians; to increase the number of joint projects between Palestinians and Israelis; to find a solution for local high-tech labor shortages; and to gain access to Arab markets.

"This is fantastic for both sides," Widerman said.

A "very wealthy and powerful" Palestinian businessman living in Jordan owns the Ramallah-based company and is financing the project, said Widerman, adding that due to the current political situation he cannot disclose names.

Widerman said that it took one year and "a lot of patience" to receive the necessary permits from the IDF and the PA to operate a

training center for the Palestinians. In the case of a terrorist attack, the workers can remain in Israel.

Siemens Data Communication, which employs about 100 people and serves as the R&D and marketing center for telecommunications networks for Siemens AG, is currently planning to establish a similar program with a group of Jordanian high-tech engineers.

Meanwhile, the Center for Jewish-Arab Economic Development, Marks and Spencer and the Jewish National Fund yesterday announced the establishment of a business training course for Arab and Jewish Israeli students.

"The expectation is that this program will allow Arabs to learn about Israeli corporate culture and give Jews the chance to get to

know the business and cultural environment in the Arab sector," said Sarah Kreimer, co-director of the Center for Jewish-Arab Economic Development.

The one-year program will include 300 hours of coursework at the local campus of Swinburne University of Technology in Australia, a three-month internship at Marks and Spencer in London and a three-month internship at an Israeli company.

Students must also give a three-year commitment to participate in a business network for the continued collaboration between Jews and Arabs.

After the one-year certificate course, students have the option to study for another year in order to receive an MA in business administration.

Dankner, Eisenberg mull Qatari project

By DAN GERSTENFELD

The Eisenberg Group and the Dankner Group, the Malaysian state oil company, in mid-1996. Qatar General Petroleum Corp., which owns a 51 percent stake in Qacenco, is currently seeking new partners for the petrochemical project, *The Peninsula* reported citing industry officials.

Qacenco, which is expected to produce 600,000 tons of methanol a year, has so far failed to get off the ground due to the withdrawal of one of its found-

ing partners, Petroleum Nasional Bhd., the Malaysian state oil company, in mid-1996.

Qatar General Petroleum Corp., which owns a 51 percent stake in Qacenco, is currently seeking new partners for the petrochemical project, *The Peninsula* reported citing industry officials.

The Dankner and Eisenberg groups said they will not comment on the report.

The Dankner group is a holding concern with diversified interests in the energy, chemical,

petrochemical and plastic industries; salt production, residential and commercial development; cable TV and telecommunications.

The Eisenberg Group manages most of its business in Israel through its subsidiary, The Israel Corporation, which is one of the state's major investment companies.

Qatar, with an indigenous population of 120,000 people, has the world's third-largest natural gas reserves after those of Russia and Iran.

Pullman wins IEC contract

By DAVID HARRIS

Israel Electric Corporation yesterday announced it has awarded the \$19 million contract to construct the chimney at the new Ashkelon power station to US company Pullman Power Products.

Three international companies bid to build the chimney at the Rutenberg power station.

The chimney is expected to be completed by August 1999. It is imperative the work is finished by that date as part of the overall building program, said IEC director-general Rafi Peled. The company's aim is for Rutenberg to be

operational by 2000.

Named after the founder of Israel's original electric corporation, the station will comprise two units, each capable of generating 550 megawatts.

The chimney will be 250 meters high, and will be significantly different from all other IEC chimneys, according to the company. It will include new technologies intended to significantly reduce the level of pollutant emissions.

Meanwhile, IEC's board of directors this weekend condemned the Public Utilities Authority's Electricity decision to raise electricity prices by 2.59 percent. The company had requested an 11% increase.

The board voted unanimously in favor of launching a campaign against the 2.59% rise. Company executives will now take the matter up with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon, and Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman.

The economic reality is that such a low increase will make it difficult to set up new power stations and maintain existing infrastructure, claimed the company.

IEC stepped into the red in the second quarter of the year with net losses of NIS 115m, compared to net profits of NIS 314m. in the same period last year.

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International Banking Division
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in brief

Kuwait's Ahmadi workers start strike

KUWAIT (Reuters) - Export workers at Kuwait's Ahmadi refinery and oil export hub started a strike on Saturday, but operations were not yet affected, their union said.

India looking to buy gas from Qatar

DOHA (Reuters) - The Indian state of Gujarat is looking to buy 7.5 million tons a year of liquefied natural gas (LNG) on a long-term basis from Qatar and Oman, a Qatari newspaper reported yesterday.

"We are keen on buying this huge amount from global LNG suppliers particularly Qatar and Oman," the English-language Peninsula quoted a member of the Indian team currently visiting Qatar as saying.

The team arrived in Qatar on Saturday in an "exploratory mission to buy LNG from Ras Laffan LNG Company (Rasgas)." The newspaper did not give further details about the possible deal or say if the delegation was planning to visit neighboring Oman.

Mars' battle over new candy lands on Capitol Hill

WASHINGTON (Bloomberg) - Mars Inc.'s fight to keep Nestle USA from selling a chocolate candy containing a Disney toy has reached Congress, The Washington Post reported. Mars lobbyists have been trying to convince lawmakers that the Nestle candy poses a choking hazard to children, while Nestle contends it is a completely safe treat.

Nestle lobbyists have persuaded Reps. James T. Walsh, Republican of New York, and George R. Nethercutt, Republican of Washington, to write a letter asking the Food and Drug Administration to issue guidelines for food-toy products, the paper said.

Mirror Group Interested in buying IPC

LONDON (Bloomberg) - Mirror Group Newspapers, publisher of five national newspapers including The Daily Mirror, is interested in buying IPC Magazines from Anglo-Dutch publishing company Reed Elsevier, The Observer reported without citing sources. MGN may find itself competing with Emap Group, German publishers Bertelsmann and Bauer, VNU of the Netherlands, and Hearst Corp. of the US, which are all likely to bid for some, if not all of the country's top consumer publications, whose best-selling titles include Loaded, TV Times, and Woman's Own.

IPC chief executive Mike Matthew is also believed to be keen to lead a management buyout with Kohlberg Kravis Roberts, CVC Capital Partners, and CinVen as potential backers, although Reed-Elsevier co-chairman Nigel Stapleton would not confirm that it planned to sell IPC, the paper said. On September 26, Reed Elsevier announced it was investigating malpractice at its Reed Travel Group unit, where mainly hotel and airline companies advertising in its trade publications have been overcharged since 1991.

Federal-Mogul offers \$2.4b. for T&N

SOUTHFIELD, Michigan (Bloomberg) - Federal-Mogul Corp. offered to buy UK auto-parts maker T&N Plc for about \$2.4 billion in cash and assumed debt, seeking the ability to deliver more-complete engine systems that help automakers cut costs. The offer of \$3.78 a share, or about \$2b., was 29 percent more than T&N's closing price yesterday. T&N stock rose 60.5 pence to 242.5 pence, or about \$3.90 a

share, indicating investors expect Federal-Mogul will have to raise its bid. Southfield, Michigan-based Federal-Mogul, the world's largest maker of bearings and bushings, gains access to T&N's line of other engine parts through the acquisition. It's the latest of several consolidations driven by automakers, who want to cut their own assembly costs by forcing suppliers to build whole systems, not just individual parts.

BARAK

Continued from Page 1

"People ask me, 'What about deeds?' Maybe these are just words," Barak said. "I say, 'Look at the deeds.' There was a never a government in the history of the state that did more for the poor neighborhoods or the development towns than the government of Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres."

of veteran," he said. Having said that, Barak went on to the apology: "In the process, complete communities were uprooted, and were directed to development towns, moshavim and tent cities. Tradition was broken. The internal fabric of the community and the family was broken, and caused real suffering that remains in the hearts of people and their children and even their grandchildren."

"An honest look at the past will give us the strength to link arms and move forward in the future," he said. Barak's apology was similar to what he had already said on Thursday, except that this time he stressed the positive aspects of the early days of the state - apparently internalizing criticism that he had focused too much on the "sins" without due appreciation of what was achieved.

At the very outset of his speech, Peres said, "I didn't come here to scuttle the attempt to get back into the government or back on the path of peace. But with that," he said, amid chuckles, "I want to do a personal reckoning."

EU's Brittan: China must continue reforms to enter WTO

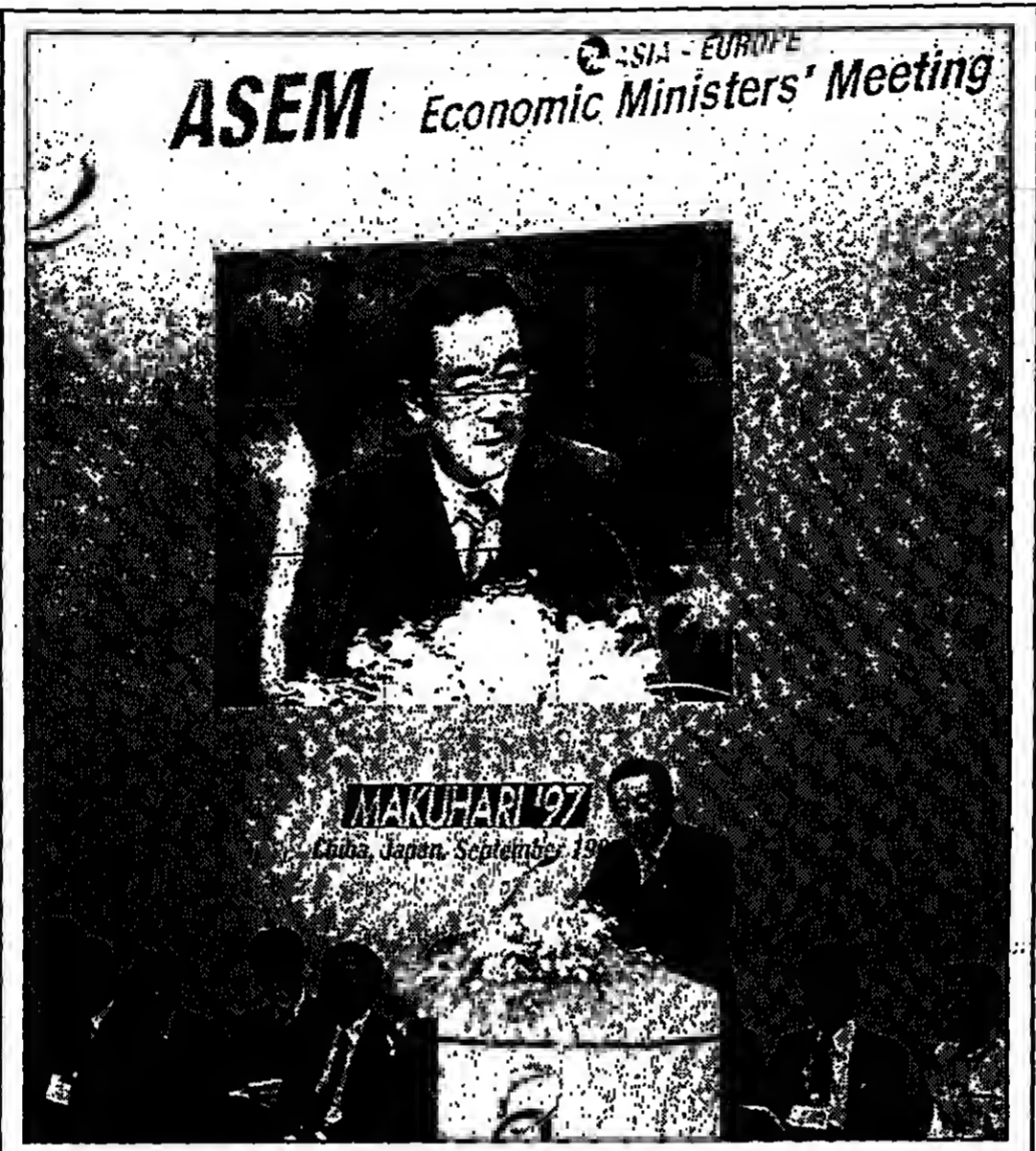
China must break down barriers to imports and end discrimination of foreign firms in order to gain access to the World Trade Organization, the European Union's top trade official said. Presenting a united front with the US, EU Trade Commissioner Sir Leon Brittan said China has not gone far enough to satisfy the conditions for joining the WTO, which would entitle its exporters to reduced tariffs worldwide.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin complained about Chinese market restrictions last week in Beijing and contrasts with a more lenient Japanese stance. China has been trying to gain access to reduced tariffs under world trade rules for more than a decade. WTO membership would also enable it to file grievances in cases when other countries break the rules.

Remaining barriers include a judicial system that discriminates against foreign companies and burdens to foreign involvement in the retailing and wholesaling industries. Partly because of obstacles to imports, China piled up a record \$25.5 billion trade surplus in the first eight months of the year, more than double the \$12.2 billion surplus recorded for all of 1996.

"transitional arrangements and phasing in of commitments, but the commitments have to be strong enough." Brittan said European trade officials will also lobby the 10 Asian countries taking part in talks to pledge to open up their banking and insurance markets ahead of a December deadline for a WTO financial-services trade agreement. The prospects for an agreement have been dimmed by turmoil in Southeast Asian currency markets.

1995 to dismantle borders to the multi-trillion-dollar financial services industry. Those negotiations yielded an interim pact which the U.S. refused to sign. "Nearly all of them (Asian nations) could improve their offers where they have them or put offers where they haven't," Brittan said. "What has happened recently reinforces the already great need for reaching agreement in December. It will make it less likely that there will be turbulence rather than more likely."



Asia-Europe Meeting Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto delivers a speech at the opening session of the Asia-Europe Meeting of economic ministers from 25 Asian and European states yesterday during the second day of the two-day conference in Chiba, near Tokyo. (Reuters)

Newspapers using celeb ads to lure back readers

NEW YORK (AP) - With U.S. newspaper circulation slipping as cable news channels and the Internet take away readers, the nation's papers are banding together for a first-ever national campaign to lure them back. The Newspaper Association of America is running celebrity ads to promote literacy, especially among children, and encourage advertising sales to newspapers.

Italy presents budget, cuts spending

ROME (AP) - The government presented its yearly budget adjustment for 1998 yesterday, leaving aside the sensitive issue of pension reform for later in the year. The government of Prime Minister Romano Prodi presented a package of 25 trillion lire (\$14.5 billion) in spending cuts and new taxes. The measures are aimed at cutting Italy's deficit-to-gross domestic product ratio to 2.8 percent next year from this year's target of 3.6%.

pensions, which account for about 60% of social spending. But after several months of stop-and-go talks with unions, the government has not been able to have the details of the reforms ready to insert into the budget, as planned. The battle over welfare cuts will continue later in the fall. The issue is crucial to the government, which says the cuts are necessary to ensure Italy's entry into European monetary union. Bot the Communist, Refoundation party,

whose support Prodi needs in the Chamber of Deputies, has threatened to bring down the government if the cuts are too deep. The party's initial reaction was negative. "Our first impression is this: We cannot support it," said Fausto Bertinotti, leader of the Communist Refoundation. Spending cuts were aimed at the train and postal system and savings also were planned through reducing waste in the bureaucracy and fighting tax evasion.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

Monday, September 29 EMERGENCIES PHARMACIES Jerusalem: Anzous, 9 Lehi Yaffe, 675-1901; Balaban, Salah el-Din, 627-2315; Shufait, Shufait Road, 581-0106; Dar Alkawa, Herzl's Gate, 628-2058. Tel Aviv: Pharmas Daf Jabotinsky, 125 Ibn Givoli, 546-2040; Superpharm Gimel, 1 Ahimitei, Ramat Aviv Gimel, 641-7171; Tili 1 a.m. Tuesday; Pharmas Daf Jabotinsky, 125 Ibn Givoli, 546-2040; Tili midnight; Superpharm Ramat Aviv, 40 Einsteim, 641-3750; London Minimors Superpharm, 4 Shaul Hamelech, 696-0115. Ra'anana-Kfar Sava: Kinneret, 119 Weizmann, Kfar Sava, 767-3228. Netanya: Netanya, 11 Herzl, 882-2842. Be'erot: Derech Hayman, 209 Derech Hayman, 571-1472. Kiryat Arca: Metzav Memshan, 29 Sd. Yehoshua, Kiryat Arca, 675-9441. Herzliya: Clal Pharm, Beit Merkazon, 6 Maskit (near Sderot Hagalim), Herzliya Pithav, 955-8472, 955-8407. Open 9 a.m. to midnight. Upper Nazareth: Clal Pharm, Lev Ha'ir Mail, 657-0468. Open 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.

WHERE TO GO

Notions in this feature are charged at NIS 28.08 per line, including VAT. Insertion every day of the month costs NIS 820.05 per line, including VAT, per month. JERUSALEM Conducted Tours HEBREW UNIVERSITY. Tours of the Mount Scopus campus, in English, daily Sun.-Thur., 11 a.m. from Bronfman Reception Center, Sherman Administration Bldg. Buses 4a, 9, 23, 26, 28. For info, call 588-2819. HADASSAH. Visit the Hadassah installations, Chagall Windows. Tel. 02-6416333, 02-677-8271. TEL AVIV Museums TEL AVIV MUSEUM. Yehiel Shemi - Retrospective. Katsia Ephraim Marcus, A Retrospective. The Heland and Zygfrid Wolrich Collection of Modern Sculpture. Yona Lotan; Selected Paintings 1958-97. Eli Jacob: The World of Women's 3. Paintings 1996-97. Collections. HELIXIA TUBIN-STEIN PAVILION FOR CONTEMPORARY ART. Yigal Ozar: 1994-97. Dorit Yaacov: New series. Hours: Wednesdays 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tue, 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Fri, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Meyerhoff Art Education Center, Tel. 6919155-8. HAIFA WHAT'S ON IN HAIFA, dial 04-8374253.

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS Table with columns: Currency (deposit term), 3 MONTHS, 6 MONTHS, 12 MONTHS. Includes sub-tables for Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) and Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates (28.9.97) with columns for CHECKS AND TRANSFERS, BANKNOTES, and Rep. Rates.

Stand by... The Jerusalem Post... Various small advertisements and notices on the right margin.

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get. cuts spending

Stand by Your Man

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Every day of Marv Albert's trial... Heather Faulkner... 'And why is she hanging around with him?'



Heather Faulkner (AP)

San Francisco clinches NL West

McGwire at 57, Griffey at 56 with one game left

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The San Francisco Giants clinched their first NL West title since 1989... McGwire hit his 56th and 57th home runs...



TURNING TWO — Giants 2B Jeff Kent throws to first to complete a double play against the San Diego Padres in first-inning action.

Table with columns for American League and National League divisions, listing teams, wins, losses, and percentages.

NATIONAL LEAGUE table showing standings for various teams.

Atlanta 000 000 01-1 5 0... New York 000 000 011-2 4 1

Los Angeles 100 000 103-6 8 1... Colorado 000 010 000-1 7 2

San Diego 000 000 010-1 4 1... San Francisco 000 102 306-6 7 0

Florida 102 001 300-7 8 0... Philadelphia 000 420 011-8 14 2

Cincinnati 100 101 200-5 10 0... Montreal 002 024 008-8 14 0

Pittsburgh 100 000 000-1 8 1... Houston 003 030 208-9 12 0

Boston 230 000 000-5 10 3... Toronto 221 000 428-12 15 3

New York 000 020 040-6 11 0... Detroit 000 000 100-10 6 0

Oakland 200 000 001-3 10 1... Seattle 410 211 008-9 13 0

Kansas City 000 036 010-10 13 1... Chicago 100 110 010-4 11 0

Baltimore 001 100 003-5 14 1... Milwaukee 300 000 100-4 8 0

Texas 010 202 200-7 12 0... Anaheim 000 011 140-8 12 1

Minnesota 002 001 021-6 14 1... Cleveland 000 216 018-10 16 0

St. Louis 001 012 000 2-6 12 0... Cincinnati 000 020 002 0-4 12 1

Seattle 001 012 000 2-6 12 0... Philadelphia 000 020 002 0-4 12 1

Los Angeles 001 012 000 2-6 12 0... Atlanta 000 020 002 0-4 12 1

San Francisco 000 020 002 0-4 12 1... Houston 000 020 002 0-4 12 1

San Diego 000 020 002 0-4 12 1... St. Louis 000 020 002 0-4 12 1

Chicago 000 020 002 0-4 12 1... New York 000 020 002 0-4 12 1

MAJOR LEAGUE LEADERS

BATTING — Thomas, Chicago, .350; Justice, Cleveland, .331; Ramirez, Cleveland, .330; Martinez, Seattle, .330...

NATIONAL LEAGUE

BATTING — Gwynn, San Diego, .372; Walker, Colorado, .364; Piazza, Los Angeles, .360; Loftis, Atlanta, .333...

How the Top 25 Ranked

- No. 1 Florida (4-0) beat Kentucky 55-20. No. 2 Penn State (3-0) did not play. No. 3 Michigan State (3-0) did not play.

Undeclared Michigan beats slumping Irish

ANN ARBOR (AP) — An improved performance by Notre Dame still wasn't good enough to beat Michigan. The Fighting Irish lost their third straight game Saturday...



FILEUP — Ralf Schumacher (in the car raised off the ground) after being hit by teammate Giancarlo Fisichella is about to crash into brother Michael in a Ferrari (right) at the Nuerburging yesterday.

Villeneuve rides his luck to victory in Luxembourg GP

NUERBURGRING, Germany (Reuters) — Jacques Villeneuve looked like a jagged champion in waiting yesterday after winning the Luxembourg Grand Prix...

Sports Editors: Joseph Hoffman and Ori Lewis

SPORTS

SPORTS

in brief

Novotna beats Coetzter, wins Leipzig title

LEIPZIG, Germany (Reuters) - World No. 2 Jana Novotna faltered in the second set before overcoming South African Amanda Coetzter 6-2 4-6 6-3 to win the \$450,000 Leipzig tennis tournament yesterday.

Jarman leads Adelaide to final victory

MELBOURNE (AP) - Adelaide's Darren Jarman kicked five goals in the final quarter to lead the Crows to a first Australian Football League title Saturday with a 19.11 (125) to 13.16 (94) victory over St Kilda.

Blackburn miss chances amid sendings off

LONDON (Reuters) - Coventry prevented Blackburn Rovers from returning to second in the English premier league yesterday with a goalless draw in which both teams had a player sent off.

IFA hits Kiryat Gat for attempted fraud

Second Division Maccabi Kiryat Gat were docked three league points by the Israel Football Association's disciplinary committee yesterday for presenting false documents to the organization's budget committee.

which stated the player was getting only a fifth of the salary which he was, in fact, to earn. The club has now dropped to the bottom of the standings and is the only one with no points in the Second Division.

Europe hold on to win Ryder Cup

By BRIAN CREIGHTON

VALDERRAMA, Spain (Reuters) - Europe retained the Ryder Cup yesterday after thwarting a spectacular rearguard action from a US team whose captain Tom Kite said were betrayed by their inexperience of the Valderrama course.

European captain Seve Ballesteros had his dream of victory fulfilled at home as his polyglot team from nine different countries retained the trophy by the same score they won it by two years ago, 14-1/2 points to 13-1/2.

Ballesteros then declared he would not be captain in 1999 when the event goes to Brookline, near Boston, because he is intent on winning back his playing spot on the team.

"This team played with its heart, that's why we won," Ballesteros said.

"I won the Masters and the British Open but there is nothing like the Ryder Cup and it is down to these 12 great men," added the man who was almost a second captain during eight previous tours of duty as a player.

Bernhard Langer, whose missed putt on the final green at Kiawah Island in 1991 cost Europe the Cup, earned the point that ensured Europe at least a tie with victory over Brad Faxon 2 and 1.

And Colin Montgomerie, Europe's top golfer for the past four years and who will probably make it a fifth this year, provided the outright victory with a last hole half point against Scott Hoch.

Kite praised his troops and said the only thing he would do differently at any stage of his captaincy would have been to have persuaded more of his team to play the course before hand.

"It was not forceful enough in getting my guys to all play here during the summer," he said.

"I have no regrets except not being stronger with the guys to come to Valderrama," he said. "The Europeans chipped better and putted better because they knew the golf course and the greens better."

The Europeans have played the Volvo Masters at Valderrama for nine years and have a total of 65 tournaments - some 250 rounds - of experience on the course.

The Americans faced a five-point deficit entering the 12 singles and needed nine points



PROUD VICTOR - A rain- and Champagne-drenched European team captain Seve Ballesteros hugs the Ryder Cup yesterday.

for victory. Fred Couples gave them a dream start by crushing Ian Woosnam 8 and 7 to equal the record for one-sided matches - set in 1989 by Kite when he beat Howard Clark by the same score.

It was Couples' third successive clash with the Welshman in the Cup singles. The previous two were halved.

But once again - as they had in Saturday's fourballs - Kite's three major champions from this year wilted.

PGA champion Davis Love went down 3 and 2 to Per-Ulrik Johansson to complete a futile week of four defeats in four matches. Masters champion Tiger Woods suffered his

third defeat against one win and a draw when Costantino Rocca beat him 4 and 2.

And British Open champion Justin Leonard squandered a four-hole lead in a halved match against Thomas Bjorn of Denmark.

The cumulative record of the three champions was one win, three halves and nine defeats over the three days.

Though the US won six and halved one of the last eight matches, those early defeats proved too costly.

"It's called golf. You can't always win," said Woods. "You can only hope you go away having given your all. I gave my all."

Phil Mickelson chipped in twice for eagle threes and beat Darren Clarke 2 and 1. Mark O'Meara routed Jesper Parnevik 5 and 4, Jeff Maggert won 3 and 2 against Lee Westwood and Tom Lehman thumped Ignacio Garrido 7 and 6.

Lee Janzen beat Jose Maria Olazabal although being two down with three to play after the Spaniard bogeyed the 16th and the American birdied the last two in a match that looked briefly as if it would provide the winning point for Europe.

Instead that came from Langer even with a missed putt at the 17th, which became the last hole because Brad Faxon also missed.

That guaranteed at least a tie and assured the trophy would stay in Europe. All that was left was for Europe to find another half point from either of their top guns, Nick Faldo, the hero of 1995, or Colin Montgomerie.

Faldo was two down to Jim Furyk with five to play but hit superlative iron shot approaches, a seven iron to three inches at 14 and a four iron to three feet at 15, both of which deserved to win holes.

But Furyk chipped in at both holes to match Faldo's birdies and deny the big Englishman another slice of glory. The American won 3 and 2.

It was left to Montgomerie and the burly Scot seized the moment - though he wavered slightly at the controversial 17th he has criticized so vociferously. Hoch squared the match with a birdie four there to send it to the last.

Montgomerie played it perfectly, his drive splitting the fairway and his seven-iron to 15 feet setting up a par that earned a half and gave Europe outright victory.

Sampras crushes Rafter to take Grand Slam Cup

MUNICH (Reuters) - World No. 1 Pete Sampras crushed US Open champion Patrick Rafter in straight sets for a lucrative win in the Grand Slam Cup yesterday.

Sampras made sure of a \$2 million cheque with a fine display of attacking tennis to beat Australian Rafter 6-2 6-4 7-5 in a one-sided final lasting 95 minutes.

The Australian Open and Wimbledon champion collected \$1.5 million for his victory plus a \$500,000 bonus for his two grand slam wins.

Rafter, making his debut in the tournament for the top performers in all four grand slams, earned \$1 million - \$750,000 for appearing in the final and \$250,000 for having won the US Open.

Sampras broke Rafter immediately in the first set, then again with a blistering return in the seventh game before wrapping it up in just 21 minutes when Rafter hit a backhand into the net on set point.

The American stayed on top of his opponent in the second set, breaking him with perfect timing with a winning forehand to go 5-4 up.

The third set was tighter, Rafter managing his only break point of the match in it. It came in the sixth game but he wasted it.

Sampras eventually broke the Australian to open a 6-5 lead before sealing his victory with a blistering forehand volley on his first match point.

SCOREBOARD

NATIONAL LEAGUE BASKETBALL - Last night's results: Maccabi Rishonon won 78-73 at Citra Stadium, Maccabi Herzliya won 74-67 at Maccabi Ramat Gan and Hapoel Holon beat Maccabi Kiryat Motzkin 99-74 at home.

NFL - Last night's early results: Broncos 29, Falcons 21; Lions 26, Packers 15; Redskins 24, Jaguars 12; Bucks 19, Cardinals 18; Steelers 37, Oilers 24; Giants 14, Saints 9.

ITALIAN SOCCER - Yesterday's Serie A results: Brescia 2, Fiorentina 0; Fiorentina 1, Empoli 2; AC Milan 0, Vicenza 1; Napoli 0, Atalanta 1; Bologna 0, AS Roma 0.

CLASSIFIEDS

RATES

PRICES ARE AS FOLLOWS - All rates include VAT. Single Weekday - NIS 134.55 for 10 words (minimum), each additional word NIS 13.45. FRIDAY AND HOLIDAY EVE - NIS 210.00 for 10 words (minimum), each additional word NIS 21.00. TWO FRIDAYS - NIS 351 for 10 words (minimum), each additional word NIS 35.10. MONDAY, WEDNESDAY and FRIDAY (package) - NIS 304.20 for 10 words (minimum), each additional word - NIS 30.42. WEEK RATE (8 insertions) - NIS 432.80 for 10 words (minimum), each additional word - NIS 43.28. FOUR FRIDAYS (package) - NIS 555.75 for 10 words (minimum), each additional word - NIS 55.57. MONTHLY (24 insertions) - NIS 1053 for 10 words (minimum), each additional word - NIS 105.30. Rates are valid until SEPTEMBER 30 1997.

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General

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DWELLINGS

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UN

CRITICS' CHOICE

FILM ADINA HOFFMAN

*** CONTACT - Based on the novel by Carl Sagan and directed by Robert Zemeckis, this may well be the most self-important sci-fi movie ever made...



Hollywood heartthrob Matthew McConaughey stars in 'Contact.'

*** TREES LOUNGE - Most often typecast as a fink, a loser, or worse, Steve Buscemi makes no attempt in this film, his writing/directing debut, to buff or alter his image...

TELEVISION

The Mask is a new cartoon series airing daily on Channel 1, at 4:30 p.m., beginning today. The series is based on the blockbuster movie starring Jim Carrey about the wimpy Stanley Ipkiss who finds a powerful ancient mask which unleashes inhibitions and hidden desires...

Elana Chipman

Fourth in Keshet's nostalgia series of romantic comedies, the film Ruggles of Red Gap stars a very young Charles Laughton as a most proper British butler whose master loses him in a poker game to a very nouveau-riche couple from Red Gap in the Wild West...

Helen Kaye

TV

- 13:00 Holy Koran 13:10 Cartoons 14:00 Gillette Sports Special 14:30 Deep Water Haven 15:00 Animal Show 15:30 Ocean Girl 16:15 French programs...

CABLE

- 16:00 Cartoons 16:30 The Hunter and the Snake 17:00 The Clear (1991) - a wealthy businessman on the eve of retirement...

CHANNEL 2

- 6:15 Today's Programs 6:30 Rainbow Children 7:00 This Morning 8:00 Riva Michaeli 8:55 Senora 10:00 Dynasty 11:00 The 12th Hour 12:45 Israel Music 13:00 Fiding High - drama set in a riding school...

CHANNEL 3

- 15:30 Echo Point 16:00 Wonder Why 16:30 Scientific Library 17:00 Happy Family 17:30 Kid's Edition 18:00 Arabic Calligraphy 18:30 Today's Health 19:00 Asiescopia 19:30 Vite 20:00 The Evening 20:30 Through Our Eyes 21:00 Situation - documentary 22:40 News Writing 23:10 The Oneida Line

CHANNEL 4

- 6:00 News 6:05 Ruggles of Red Gap (1935) - superb comedy about a valet staked in a poker game and lost by a European gentleman to an American couple from Washington State...

CHANNEL 5

- 6:30 Bodes in Motion 6:30 Bodes in Motion 6:30 Bodes in Motion 6:30 Bodes in Motion...

CHANNEL 6

- 6:00 VIP 6:30 The McLaughlin

PRIME TIME TV

Table with 8 columns (1-8) and 8 rows (19:30-23:00) listing TV programs like News flash, Wheel of Fortune, The Naked Truth, etc.

Company 20:25 Married with Children 20:50 Roseanne 21:20 The Cosby Show 21:45 Different World

6:00 Open University (pt) 6:30 The Wonder Years 7:00 Oprah Winfrey 8:00 Videofashion 8:30 Yes, Minister 9:00 Nino To Five 9:30 Dynasty 10:30 The Bold and the Beautiful 11:00 Santa Barbara 12:00 Star Trek: Voyager 12:30 Star Trek: Voyager 13:00 The X-Files 22:30 Star Trek: Voyager 23:00 Vegas 10:30 Oprah Winfrey 1:00 21 Jump Street

RADIO

6:06 Morning Concert 9:05 John Taylor: Complete Circle (Azimuti Trio); Michael Donohy: Metropolis Symphony - 50 Years...



CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

Cryptic crossword puzzle with clues for Across and Down. Includes solutions for some words like 'Spot drunk isn't heavy' and 'Soldier held up by the returning crew'.

SOLUTIONS

Grid for solutions to the cryptic crossword puzzle.

QUICK CROSSWORD

Quick crossword puzzle with clues for Across and Down. Includes solutions for words like 'English painter', 'Long denunciation', and 'Furniture'.

MOVIES

JERUSALEM CINEMATHEQUE Alaska 5, Chacón Chacón Son Chai 7:15 - Lost Highway 9:20 Casablanca 9:30 G.G. Gil Jerusalem Mall (Malha) = 6788448 Beam-Austin Powers-Addicted to Love 4:45, 7:15, 9:45... JERUSALEM LEV 1-4 = 6782799 Credit Card Reservations = 6794477 Rav-Mecher Building, 19 Hartman St., Taprot Air Force One = 4:45, 7:15, 9:45... JERUSALEM LEV 1-4 = 6782799 Credit Card Reservations = 6794477 Rav-Mecher Building, 19 Hartman St., Taprot Air Force One = 4:45, 7:15, 9:45...

Olmert acquitted of fraud charges

By ELLI WOHLGELER and news agencies

Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert was found not guilty yesterday on charges of campaign finance fraud in connection with the 1988 Knesset election and the 1989 local council elections, when he was the Likud's treasurer.

Tel Aviv District Court Judge Justice Oded Mudrik ruled that the prosecution did not prove that Olmert was involved in the scheme to provide companies with fictitious receipts which involved falsifying documents, aggravated fraud, and knowingly making false statements.

"I am happy," Olmert said after the court handed down its verdict. "The judge said I am innocent, that the charges against me were not proven."

Olmert's lawyer, Yigal Armon, said there were no grounds to try Olmert in the first place, and called on the State Attorney's Office to review its policy.

There was similar reaction from other politicians, who attacked the State Attorney's Office and the Attorney-General's Office for some dozen investigations against political figures over the last two years.

Not one of the cases resulted in a conviction.

MK Ruby Rivlin (Geshet-Likud) accused former attorney general Michael Ben-Yair of political motives in deciding to prosecute public officials, including Olmert, Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan, and Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman. He recommended that those involved in handing down baseless indictments against public figures should face disciplinary proceedings.

State Attorney Edoa Arbel issued a statement saying that the recent acquittals of several public figures do not mandate a change



Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert is congratulated by his wife after his acquittal yesterday.

(Yael Samuels/Israel Sun)

of policy on indictments by her office. She said that in the next few days, the office will study the verdict, adding that the judge had said that the holding of the trial was "important."

Arbel repeatedly expressed her complete confidence in her staff. She refused to say whether an appeal of the verdict is being con-

sidered. Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein said that he has no doubt that outside considerations, especially political ones, are not factors in the State Attorney's Office's decision on whether to indict a public figure.

Robinstein congratulated Olmert upon his acquittal, not-

ing that from a public point of view, it was correct to indict him.

He said that policy review is always proper, but that the State Attorney's Office is not compelled to do so based on Olmert's acquittal.

After hearing the morning verdict, Olmert returned to his office at noon, where he was greeted by

dozens of floral bouquets, according to his spokesman Haggai Elias. Olmert donated the flowers to Shaare Zedek Hospital "because they are still treating people from the bombings at Mahaneh Yehuda and the Ben-Yehuda mall," Elias said, adding that Olmert later went to the Western Wall, where he read two

psalms. Olmert also received telephone calls of congratulations from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and President Ezer Weizman, who called from Cairo.

Prosecutors had accused Olmert with helping to set a fake advertising agency to give false receipts to advertisers and business leaders who made donations to Likud. The donors then wrote off the contributions as a tax-exempt business expense. Businesses are barred by law from making political contributions.

The court also cleared Olmert of a second charge of giving false testimony to the state comptroller regarding Likud's election finances.

Olmert's position as mayor and MK added additional ingredients to the trial even before it began. One issue was parliamentary immunity, which Olmert could have invoked thus preventing the trial from going forward.

But at his own initiative last October, Olmert requested that the Knesset House Committee lift his immunity so that he could stand trial.

At the same time, he submitted a petition to the High Court of Justice in which he claimed the decision to press charges against him was illegal, based on conflicting statements made by then attorney-general Michael Ben-Yair.

But the court ruled that despite Ben-Yair's having spoken "out of both sides of his mouth" regarding the evidence against Olmert, the question of whether there is enough evidence or not is strictly in the attorney-general's purview, and that in this case Olmert could be indicted.

The High Court had earlier ruled that under existing precedent, Olmert was not required to resign as mayor.

WEATHER Golan 14-20

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Hadera 19-26 | Tiberias 21-27 |
| Afula 18-25 | Samartha 12-18 |
| Tel Aviv 21-27 | Jerusalem 14-20 |
| Bnei Brak 15-21 | Dead Sea 25-31 |
| Ellet 23-33 | |

Forecast: Drop in temperatures, with rain in the North.

AROUND THE WORLD

| | LOW | HIGH | | | |
|--------------|-----|------|----|----|--------|
| Amsterdam | 08 | 49 | 18 | 64 | cloudy |
| Berlin | 08 | 49 | 22 | 72 | clear |
| Buenos Aires | 11 | 52 | 17 | 63 | clear |
| Chgo | 21 | 70 | 30 | 85 | clear |
| Chicago | 14 | 57 | 24 | 76 | partly |
| Copenhagen | 07 | 46 | 22 | 72 | clear |
| Frankfurt | 07 | 46 | 22 | 72 | clear |
| Geneva | 09 | 48 | 18 | 64 | cloudy |
| Helsinki | 08 | 43 | 12 | 54 | cloudy |
| Hong Kong | 21 | 70 | 22 | 72 | cloudy |
| Jakarta | 18 | 84 | 25 | 77 | partly |
| London | 18 | 59 | 20 | 68 | cloudy |
| Los Angeles | 15 | 63 | 22 | 72 | partly |
| Madrid | 15 | 63 | 22 | 72 | partly |
| Manila | 01 | 34 | 04 | 50 | rain |
| Montreal | 01 | 34 | 04 | 50 | rain |
| Moscow | 18 | 59 | 19 | 66 | partly |
| New York | 18 | 59 | 19 | 66 | partly |
| Nice | 09 | 45 | 25 | 77 | clear |
| Paris | 09 | 45 | 25 | 77 | clear |
| Rome | 09 | 45 | 25 | 77 | clear |
| Stockholm | 13 | 55 | 19 | 66 | partly |
| Sydney | 18 | 84 | 25 | 77 | cloudy |
| Tokyo | 09 | 45 | 18 | 64 | partly |
| Zurich | 08 | 46 | 17 | 63 | partly |

Mayors in and out of trouble

Mayors in recent years include:

- Eilat Mayor Avi Huchman was indicted on charges of bribery, fraud, and breach of trust. (August, 1994)
- Rishon LeZion Mayor Yehonatan Ben-Ner was indicted on two counts of fraud in connection with the Tel Aviv District Council's fraud charges. (1994)
- Pithul Mayor Yehonatan Ben-Ner was indicted on charges of bribery-taking and breach of trust. (July 1994)
- Herziya Mayor Eli Landau was indicted on charges of fraud and breach of trust. (October 1995)
- Former Haifa Mayor Arye Guril was acquitted.

Prosecuting public figures

When he was attorney-general, Aharon Barak—now Supreme Court president—put forth the now widely known Buzaglo test, which says it is the duty of the prosecuting authorities to ensure equality between the ordinary citizen, Buzaglo, and a public figure such as the prime minister or a mayor. The Buzaglo test means that all citizens, high and low, are subject to the law, and a mayor or minister will not be favored.

The acquittal of Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert again raises the issue of prosecutorial policy toward indicting mayors and other public figures. They are usually indicted for the ambiguous offense known as breach of trust, which is not clearly

defined and very much dependent upon prevailing social norms.

In numerous cases the public figures were acquitted. When the prosecution appealed, it lost in the Supreme Court.

The Olmert case has other difficulties. He was indicted eight years after the matter arose, and then only after his associate Likud Party treasurer had already been convicted.

The prosecution has announced that it does not think it needs to

change its policy. I would say that a lot of thinking has to be done.

The recurrent acquittals suggest that the prosecution makes its life too easy and passes the buck to the courts, instead of taking responsibility and closing the cases.

Not every misconduct is criminal. There are other sanctions—moral, political, and disciplinary. And when public figures are indicted, and then acquitted, they are inevitably punished publicly. The standards applied to them are stricter. The result is that the Buzaglo test is applied, but justice is not done, or at least does not seem to be done.

The writer is a law professor at the Hebrew University.

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Pluralism battle to hit Diaspora pulpits on High Holy Days

NEW YORK — Trying to ensure that pluralism is pitched from the pulpit on the High Holy Days, the New Israel Fund sent 3,500 non-Orthodox rabbis in Israel, the U.S., Canada, and Britain a "source guide" that provides ammunition in

the battle for religious freedom. But with Conservative and Reform rabbis focused on the battle, the holidays in the Diaspora are likely to turn into a collective and-Israel diatribe.

If so, the question will be whether the non-Orthodox will be sophisticated in conveying agitation with

the Israeli government, without jilting their own causes in Israel.

The NIF's "Judaism and the Jewish State: A Source Guide" is a 91-page booklet of biblical citations, news clips, and opinion pieces—including Orthodox voices—that are a primer on pluralism. It is intended to provide materials rabbis can incorporate into sermons for the few days each year when synagogues are packed.

The Reform movement, observers noted, is giving Americans dual messages—stoking their anger over pluralism, but also telling them not to desert UJA and Israel Bonds. Earlier this month, the Reform leadership called on Reform rabbis and

congregations to cooperate with UJA and with the local Jewish federations that raise money.

"We hope that you and your federations will begin a constructive new relationship," the leadership said.

UJA has committed itself to try to raise an additional \$20 million for the Reform and Conservative movements' operations in Israel—but only once it reaches its regular campaign goal. That requires maintaining the good will of the movements.

Knesset panel discusses ethics codes for police probe

The Knesset Interior Committee yesterday discussed police investigation procedures to find ways of ending biased interrogations of public figures.

The meeting was attended by Avigdor Lieberman, the director-general of the Prime Minister's Office, who has been the object of several police inquiries, Police Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz, and Investigations Division head Cmdr. Sando Mazor.

Committee chairman Salah Tirfi called on Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani to establish a working group of jurists, police investigators, and former ministry directors-general to formulate a code of ethics.

The committee met after the acquittal of Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert on charges of illegally rais-

ing funds for the election campaign.

Hefetz agreed there is a problem of leaks from investigations, but he denied the police has a policy of leaking information.

Lieberman noted that leaks had the opposite effect to that intended, and the continued investigation of Zvi Ben-Ari (Gregory Lerner) had turned him into the Russian-language press's man of the year.

Fraud squad chief Yerahmiel Halperin said cases against public figures are difficult to prove, so more than half end in acquittals.

Mazor, often portrayed as the man out to get public figures and whose Bar-On investigation led to a police recommendation to indict the prime minister, said had he conducted the probe of Olmert, he would have called and congratulated him on his acquittal.

(Jim)

THE GOLAN A VERY DIFFERENT TWO DAYS

Widely recognized as perhaps Israel's most important security asset, the Golan is for the moment on the back burner. But it won't be there for long. So what better time than now to join Shorashim and The Jerusalem Post Travel Club for an in-depth, English-speaking two day tour of the area. We'll visit the settlements, examine the security issues and view the terrain, the animals, the water and the beauty.

We'll visit the museum at Kibbutz Tel Katzir, Mitzpe Shalom Observation Point, Kibbutz Afik for a meeting with members, Katzrin, tastings at the Golan Wineries, observe the vultures at Gamla, Tel Rachsanya wind generators, the ancient volcano of Mount Bental, view Syrian Kuneitra, Birkat Ram, Ein Kinya, Kfar Bajar Alawim and more. A truly magnificent tour. Overnight at Kibbutz Kfar Blum, with a lecture on the Golan's wildlife.

The date: Monday-Tuesday, October 27-28.

The guide: Israel Shalem.

The price: NIS 660. Includes transportation from Jerusalem or Tel Aviv and back, background lectures and on-the-spot explanations, entrance to all sites, half-board accommodation in a double room, dinner on the first day, breakfast and lunch-box on the second. Pick-up and drop-off along the route when possible, by prior arrangement.

Reservations and further information:

SHORASHIM, POB 7588, 14 Rehov Abarbanel, Rehavia, Jerusalem 91074
Tel. 02-566-6231 (9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.)
Ask for Michal, Vered or Varda.

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